Erap petition puts plunder law on trial at SC

Story on Page A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Strong stock rally in Asia sputters

HONG KONG—A strong stock rally across Asia-Pacific region lost momentum on Tuesday while European exchanges opened lower as investors wondered whether they've seen the worst of the losses brought about by the terror attacks in America.

The reopening of the US market on Monday and news that the US and European central banks had cut interest rates pushed share prices higher

STRONG/ A5

Seer sees bombs falling on country A

By C. Avendaño

AS US retaliation for the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon looms, celebrity seer Madame Auring is

SEER/ A6

ANO KAYA?
AUSTRALIA...
ARGENTINA...
ANTARTICA...

'What kind of war is it?'

SAGISAG NG PANGULO NG PILIPINAS

THE ROLE of the Philippines in the war on terrorism is discussed at the 28-member National Security Council meeting Tuesday. President Macapagal is flanked, from left, by former President Fidel Ramos, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez and former President Corazon Aquino. EDWIN BACASMAS

RP, other US allies have no idea on roles

By Martin P. Marfil, Juliet L. Javellana and Christine Avendaño

MALACAÑANG has yet to be informed of the type of war that the Philippines will support once the US-led coalition goes after those believed responsible for the terrorist attacks on the United States.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, made this admission yesterday, days after she promised all-out assistance to the US government.

Tiglao spoke with reporters after the meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) in Malacañang and said it was "too early" to tell if the support entailed the sending of Filipino troops.

The NSC, composed of 28 members including past Presidents Fidel Ramos and Corazon Aquino, met last night to discuss the role that the Philippines would play in the international coalition against terrorism.

But concerns were raised by the political opposition that "no specific actions" were discussed as to the role of the Philippines in the war.

Asked if US officials had informed the Philippine government of the war it would be getting into, Tiglao said: "No details yet. We believe it's a very guarded secret among US military strategists, exactly what response would be."

But Sen. Rodolfo Biazon pointed out that the Philippines was maintaining 625 troops in East Timor and a police contingent in Kosovo for peacekeeping missions.

WHAT/ A5

Euro allies in the dark about US war plans

BRUSSELS—What kind of war is it?

European allies who have pledged support for the United States voiced their worries yesterday about the anti-terrorism campaign Washington was putting together and their unknown role in it. "It's not a war," Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel insisted. "You can't just use words like that. There needs to be a 'mobilization' against terrorism."

"Our complete backing also means they will have to take our feelings and opinions into account," Michel said. Belgium currently holds the rotating European Union presidency.

"We are in the same boat, but we fear what the captain of the boat will decide to do," said Dominique Moisi of the French Institute for International Relations.

"The sort of crusade that would create a 'clash of civilizations' war really makes Europe really nervous," Moisi said. "We cannot afford that."

But on the same day US President George W. Bush stepped up his war rhetoric, saying he wanted suspected terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden "dead or alive" and vowing to get "those barbaric people" behind last week's unprecedented terrorist attacks.

And in the White House, an official suggested that the 35-year-old presidential order banning assassinations did not necessarily apply to Bin Laden.

European Union leaders called an emergency summit for Friday to coordinate their actions and reaffirm their support for the United States—partly in the hope of gaining greater input into Washington's strategic plans.

Closer to the Arab world and with a larger Muslim population, Europeans worry that an "irrational" strike by the

EURO/ A17

As Afghans flee, Bin Laden's men are training in Pakistan

KABUL, Afghanistan—Fear of imminent US retaliation has forced more than half of the population in the Afghan city that Osama bin Laden calls home to flee to the safety of the countryside, but New Delhi sources said Islamic guerrillas are undergoing tough military training in neighboring Pakistan to launch daring attacks against US targets. The guerrillas are even seen singing passionate songs of allegiance to Bin Laden, the suspected mastermind behind last week's terrorist attacks.

Throughout Afghanistan on Monday, the Taliban leaders sent a message to their people: "Stay united and prepare for jihad against US invaders," the official Bakhtar News Agency reported yesterday, on the same day the Taliban put off a decision on whether to extradite Bin Laden or not.

But international attention is sure to focus on Pakistan and its guerrilla camps. According to intercepted radio transmissions provided by Indian security officials in Kashmir, members of the Pakistan-based Hezb-ul mujahideen (holy warriors) sang Bin Laden's praises on Friday night, three days after the terror attacks on the United States.

"Osama! Osama! We are with you! Go! Fight! If one Osama dies there are a million others! The mujahideen are with you!" sang a man's voice broadcast over a walkie-talkie from a mountainous region of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, according to the Indian officials. India has a longstanding dispute with Pakistan, which borders Afghanistan, over the region of Kashmir.

Videotape clips in the hands of American investigators show several Islamic militants in mountain camps in Pakistan, near the Afghanistan border,

AS/ A17

WAR IS TERRORISM

ERIK ARAZAS

EQUATING war with terrorism, Sanlakas members picket the US Embassy for the second straight day.

Macapagal told to crush Abu Sayyaf first

By Armand N. Nocum and Gerald G. Lacuarta

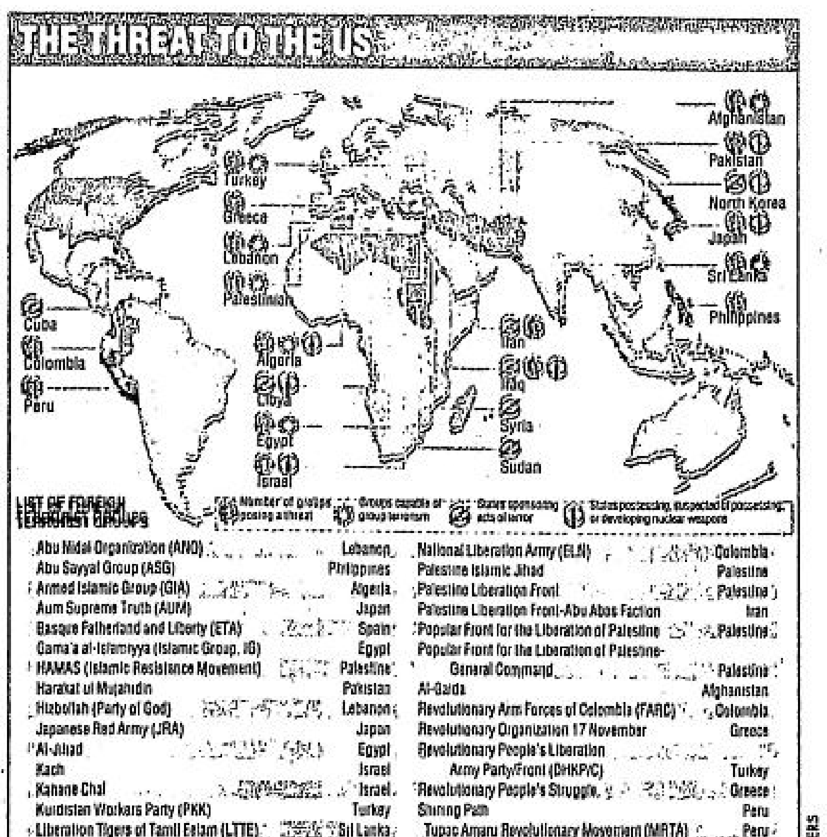
THE PHILIPPINES can help in the global war against terrorism by stamping out the Abu Sayyaf with whom suspected international terrorist Osama bin Laden has ties, administration and opposition senators said yesterday.

They made the remark in the course of pointing out the folly of sending an ill-equipped military contingent to join the US-led coalition set to wage war on the perpetrators of last week's terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran's criticism of the offer of assistance extended by President Macapagal-Arroyo to the US government ran

MACAPAGAL/A17

THE THREAT TO THE US


Afghanistan
Pakistan
North Korea
Japan
Sri Lanka
Philippines
Turkey
Greece
Lebanon
Palestinian
Cuba
Colombia
Peru
Algeria
Libya
Egypt
Israel
Iran
Iraq
Syria
Sudan
Number of groups posing a threat
Groups capable of group terrorism
States sponsoring acts of terror
States possessing, suspected of possessing or developing nuclear weapons

LIST OF FOREIGN TERRORIST GROUPS

Abu Nidal Organization (ANO)	Lebanon
Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG)	Philippines
Armed Islamic Group (GIA)	Algeria
Aum Supreme Truth (AUM)	Japan
Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)	Spain
Gama'a al-Islamiyya (Islamic Group, IG)	Egypt
HAMAS (Islamic Resistance Movement)	Palestine
Harakat ul Mujahidin	Pakistan
Hizbollah (Party of God)	Lebanon
Japanese Red Army (JRA)	Japan
Al-Jihad	Egypt
Kach	Israel
Kahane Chai	Israel
Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK)	Turkey
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)	Sri Lanka
Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization	Iran
National Liberation Army (ELN)	Colombia
Palestine Islamic Jihad	Palestine
Palestine Liberation Front	Palestine
Palestine Liberation Front-Abu Abas Faction	Iran
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine	Palestine
Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command	Palestine
Al-Qaida	Afghanistan
Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)	Colombia
Revolutionary Organization 17 November	Greece
Revolutionary People's Liberation Army Party/Front (DHKP/C)	Turkey
Revolutionary People's Struggle	Greece
Shining Path	Peru
Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA)	Peru

Source US Department of State, Jane's Information Group

REUTERS

World counts human cost of terror attacks

NEW YORK—One week after the terror blitz in the United States, there was still no clear indication Tuesday of the total number of people killed in the attacks.

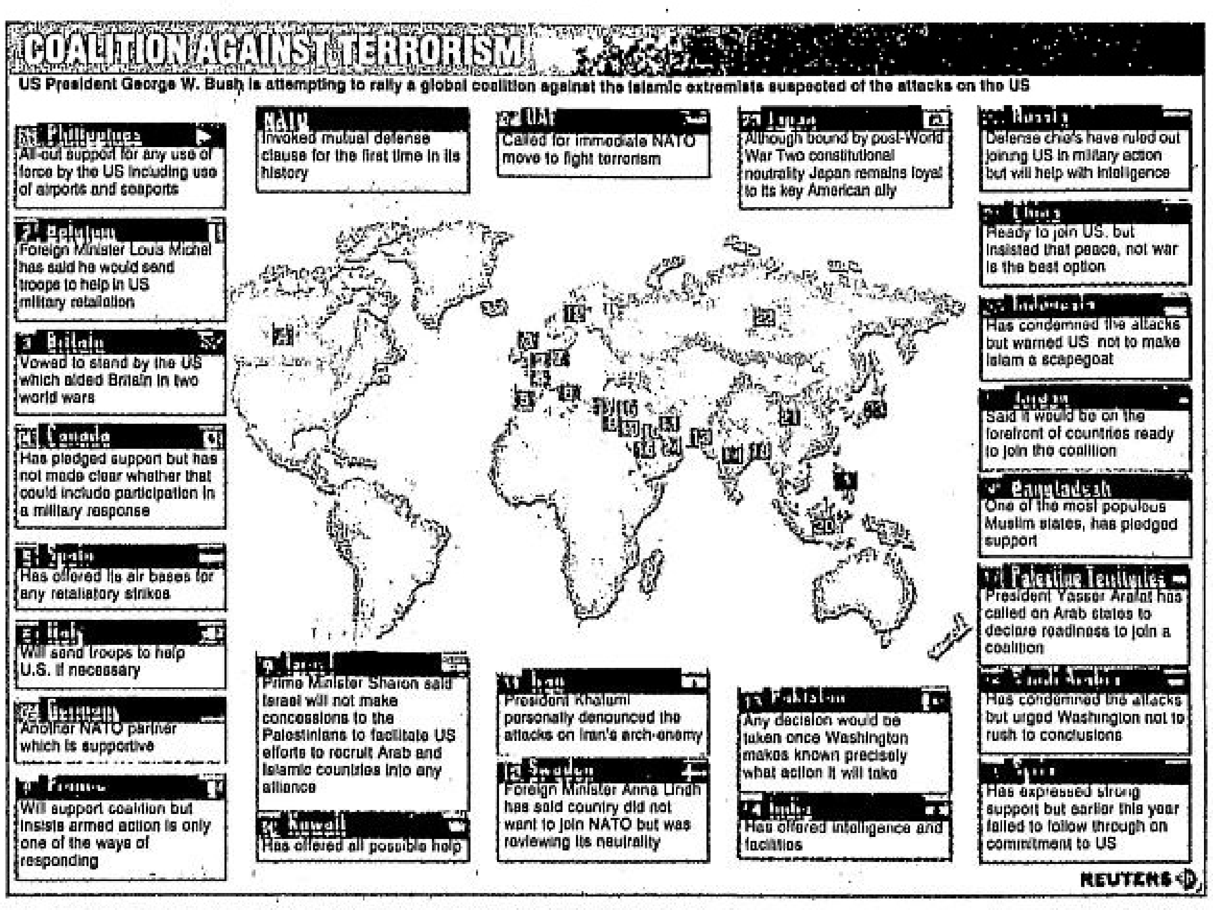
Emergency workers at the site of the shattered World Trade Center have so far recovered just 201 bodies of the more than 5,000 people believed to be under the rubble, leaving distraught families around the world clinging to the very thin hope that at least some of the missing might yet be found alive.

The UNITED STATES has not established a toll of its nationals likely killed in the attacks on the World Trade Center, but New York City authorities said 5,422 people were missing. There was little hope of finding any of them alive.

WORLD/ A6

COALITION AGAINST TERRORISM

US President George W. Bush is attempting to rally a global coalition against the Islamic extremists suspected of the attacks on the US



Philippines: All-out support for any use of force by the US including use of airports and seaports

Belgium: Foreign Minister Louis Michel has said he would send troops to help in US military retaliation

Britain: Vowed to stand by the US which aided Britain in two world wars

Canada: Has pledged support but has not made clear whether that could include participation in a military response

Spain: Has offered its air bases for any retaliatory strikes

Italy: Will send troops to help U.S. if necessary

Germany: Another NATO partner which is supportive

France: Will support coalition but insists armed action is only one of the ways of responding

NATO: Invoked mutual defense clause for the first time in its history

Called for immediate NATO move to fight terrorism

Japan: Although bound by post-World War Two constitutional neutrality Japan remains loyal to its key American ally

Israel: Prime Minister Sharon said Israel will not make concessions to the Palestinians to facilitate US efforts to recruit Arab and Islamic countries into any alliance

Kuwait: Has offered all possible help

Iran: President Khatami personally denounced the attacks on Iran's arch-enemy

Sweden: Foreign Minister Anna Lindh has said country did not want to join NATO but was reviewing its neutrality

Pakistan: Any decision would be taken once Washington makes known precisely what action it will take

India: Has offered intelligence and facilities

Russia: Defense chiefs have ruled out joining US in military action but will help with intelligence

China: Ready to join US, but insisted that peace, not war is the best option

Indonesia: Has condemned the attacks but warned US not to make Islam a scapegoat

Jordan: Said it would be on the forefront of countries ready to join the coalition

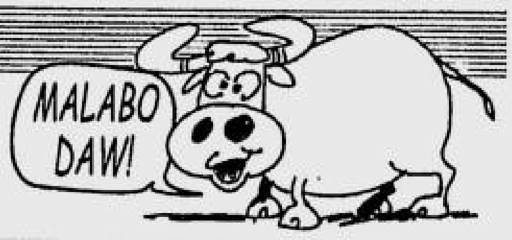
Bangladesh: One of the most populous Muslim states, has pledged support

Palestine Territories: President Yasser Arafat has called on Arab states to declare readiness to join a coalition

Saudi Arabia: Has condemned the attacks but urged Washington not to rush to conclusions

Has expressed strong support but earlier this year failed to follow through on commitment to US

REUTERS



Plunder law on trial at SC

PRO- ESTRADA supporters stand their ground against anti-riot policemen. ERIK ARAZAS

LAWYERS for jailed President Joseph Estrada yesterday questioned the constitutionality of the Anti-Plunder Law that he once championed but is now being used to prosecute him.

The 15-member Supreme Court started hearing arguments from both sides on the issue that is crucial to the government's corruption case against Estrada.

Estrada, detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, faces trial on the capital offense of plunder starting on Oct. 1.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the constitutionality of the plunder law before the trial begins.

Pacifico Agabin, a lawyer for Estrada, said the law was unconstitutionally vague, depriving the accused of the basic right to know clearly the charges against him.

Other Estrada lawyers said there are already laws dealing with specific criminal acts that could be included under a plunder case, leading to confusion.

Ironic

Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo said it was ironic that Estrada was trying to discredit the Anti-Plunder Law that he voted for in 1991 as a senator.

"He's now questioning it because it jeopardizes his liberty," Marcelo said.

Estrada said he voted in favor of the law because he belonged ton a party that introduced and supported it.

"I'm so depressed. I have been suffering here for five months already because of all these charges that were packaged together so they could come up with a plunder charge. It is a great injustice to me," Estrada told the Associated Press by telephone from his hospital room.

Marcelo likened Estrada, in refusing to understand the plunder law, to a person pretending to be asleep.

"It's difficult to wake up somebody who is already awake, just like the petitioner (who claims not to understand the plunder law)," he said.

Pro-Erap rally

As the hearing started, riot police pushed away about 50 rowdy pro-Estrada supporters who staged a protest that clogged traffic.

The protesters, belonging to the People's Movement Against Poverty, the Union of the Masses Against Justice and Peace and other pro-Estrada groups, called for the abrogation of the Anti-Plunder Law.

Many of the ralliers interviewed by the INQUIRER did not bother to discuss the merits of the plunder law but were adamant that Estrada was innocent and should be set free.

The law defines plunder, a non-bailable capital offense, as a series of criminal acts resulting in at least P50 million in illegally acquired wealth.

Oral arguments between the Estrada lawyers and state prosecutors stretched for more than five hours.

Agabin said the plunder law was vague and unconstitutional since it strung together separate criminal acts, categorized it as a heinous crime and gave it a more serious penalty.

Criminal acts such as malversation are meted specific penalties under the country's justice system, Agabin argued.

"How is it that when consolidated, these separate acts are suddenly penalized with capital punishment?" he asked.

Blame Congress

Marcelo reminded Agabin that it was Congress, not the government prosecutors, that passed the plunder law.

"It is now up to the courts to interpret it," he said.

SC Associate Justice Vicente Mendoza told Agabin that plunder was considered a special complex crime, like robbery with homicide or robbery with rape.

Robbery per se or homicide per se has specific penalties under the law. But when committed in one instance by the same person, the act is considered more serious than a simple crime, Mendoza explained.

Agabin then harped on the plunder law's supposed lack of "clarity." For a law to be considered clear, Agabin said it needed to be understood by a person of ordinary intelligence.

The SC gave Estrada lawyers and government prosecutors 10 days each to submit their memorandums following the oral arguments. *Reports from Cathy C. Yamsuan, Jerome Aning and AP*

Sandigan: No 'trial by jury' for Estradas

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday rejected a request from ousted President Joseph Estrada and his son Jinggoy to be allowed a "trial with assessors" in the plunder case.

A trial with assessors is similar to a jury trial.

Saying the proposal lacked any legal or statutory basis, the anti-graft court's 3rd Division junked the Estradas' "application for trial with assessors" filed on Sept. 10.

Estrada lawyers said a "trial with assessors" was an option the accused could choose to exercise in case of fear that there would be a mistrial.

The lawyers cited the alleged bias against the accused of the division chair, Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr.

The prosecution, however, told the court that the rules of the Sandiganbayan did "not provide for trial with assessors."

The court's resolution, promulgated yesterday, said "the accused Estradas cited no law in support of the application for trial with assessors."

"Neither did the Court find, after meticulous research, any law or jurisprudence allowing a party to invoke the aid of assessors in actions falling within the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan," it noted.

It said that the Code of Civil Procedure, which took effect on Oct. 1, 1901, did provide for trial with the aid of assessors. But the Rules of Court which became effective on July 1, 1940 did not incorporate the provisions of the Code on Civil Procedures on assessors, the court said.

Neither did the law which created the Sandiganbayan provide for trial by assessors.

According to the old Code of Civil Procedure, the clerk of court of the Courts of First Instance prepares a list of the residents in a province to sit as assessors in a trial. *Donna S. Cueto*

War vets grieve over NY victims

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—With patriotic fervor, Joe Carsley sang "Star Spangled Banner." Behind him, 84 other retired American soldiers and Filipino-Americans followed, and obviously holding back tears, finished the song in honor of those who died and are still missing from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Though thousands of miles away from the US, American war veterans in this city continue to feel the grief that the air attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and on the Pentagon in Washington D.C. have caused on their country, according to Jerry Bristley, commander of the American League Post 123.

In a prayer breakfast held at the league's bar here on Tuesday, John Welsh, commander of the Disabled American Veterans, and B.K. Hubbard, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars District 7, expressed the same sentiments.

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Abu-Bin Laden link cut in '95–Palace

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG believes the Abu Sayyaf group no longer has any links with suspected terrorist leader Osama bin Laden even as the military command in the south said it was verifying information that several international terrorists with ties to Bin Laden have managed to slip into Mindanao.

The United States regards Bin Laden, a renegade Saudi billionaire believed to be living in Afghanistan, as the principal suspect in the attacks that killed at least 5,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania on Sept. 11.

The Philippines, which has pledged all-out support for the US-led global anti-terrorism coalition, has been forced to look into its own security threats, including the Abu Sayyaf extremists operating in Basilan.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday questioned how the Armed Forces could conceive of joining a US-led attack on suspected terrorist lairs when it cannot even find or wipe out the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

The AFP said earlier it was ready to send a battalion of soldiers to join anti-terrorist action in the Middle East or Central Asia after President Macapagal-Arroyo committed the country to support the US-led war on terrorism.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao, citing intelligence information, said the Bin Laden group had apparently funded the Abu Sayyaf in the early 1990s, but "after 1995, or as early as 1995, there has been no Bin Laden links with the Abu Sayyaf."

According to one report, "the Bin Laden people thought the Abu Sayyaf were too ignorant or too mercenary to join a world terrorist organization."

Tiglao said this would confirm an assessment that the Abu Sayyaf has degenerated from a political organization into a criminal group, carrying out kidnapping for ransom.

Tiglao said the last Bin Laden cell found in the country was the one of Ramzi Ahmed Yousef and Abdul Hakim Murad who were convicted for the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center.

"To the credit of our intelligence service, they quickly responded to that cell and provided the US justice system with evidence to convict Yousef and Murad," Tiglao said.

Southcom Commander Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said the military was looking into reports that three suspected aides of Bin Laden had been spotted in Zamboanga City before the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon last Tuesday.

"That is still raw information, although we are verifying it. We can't just disregard such information," Cimatu said.

He said the AFP was working on the assumption that some international terrorists managed to enter the country even before the attacks in Washington and New York.

"They (terrorists) can always find a way to enter the country undetected. They may come incognito or legally," Cimatu said.

Cimatu said the AFP was continuously coordinating with the immigration department.

He said he was also in touch with Muslim *ulama* (religious teachers) in the south to discuss the anti-terrorist measures.

"We have tripled, not just doubled, our monitoring surveillance capability," Cimatu said. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora and Gerald Lacuarta***

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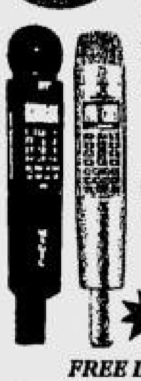

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RECALCITRANT VIOLATORS

Gov't to close down 23 Metro 'fire traps'

By Martin P. Marfil

THE GOVERNMENT plans to close down 23 Metro Manila buildings found to have defective fire protection and safety features.

Included in the list were hospitals like the Ospital ng Sampaloc, Dr. Jose Fabella Hospital, the Tondo Medical Center, J. Rizal Medical Center, Dr. Victor Potenciano Hospital, some buildings within the Philippine General Hospital complex and the San Lazaro Hospital.

The preventive closures, according to Interior Secretary Joey Lina, would be announced within 48 hours.

Lina named the other buildings in the list as the Court Felicidad Bldg., Wack Wack Condominium Corp., Giovan Bldg., Maranatha Christian Academy, Miss Showgirl, Crown Bay Tower, AMA computers, BM Tower Bldg., Oppen Bldg., Goodwill Bldg., Campos-Rueda Bldg., Twin Cities Condominium, City Garden Hotel, First E-Bank Tower, Traveler's Inn and the Holy Child Montessori.

"They are considered very high fire hazards... We will close them down, we have no choice, if fire breaks out and there are no fire safety measures in place..." Lina said.

The buildings, he added, would have to stay closed until they install the necessary safety features like fire exits, sprinklers and fire alarm systems.

Unlike the other establishments, Lina said that the hospitals would not be immediately closed down as they have to determine if patients could be confined elsewhere.

The 23 buildings deemed for closure were part of the 54 earlier listed as those lacking safety measures, Lina said.

The list of the 54 was trimmed down to 23 after fire officials found out some have been "recalcitrant."

"We have talked with them and they presented some suggestions like they would write an undertaking that they will be responsible and that they will fix their establishments," Lina said.

"But some of them have not fixed their establishments since the early '80s when the violations were noted. They have become recalcitrant, they have not introduced the necessary corrections," he added.

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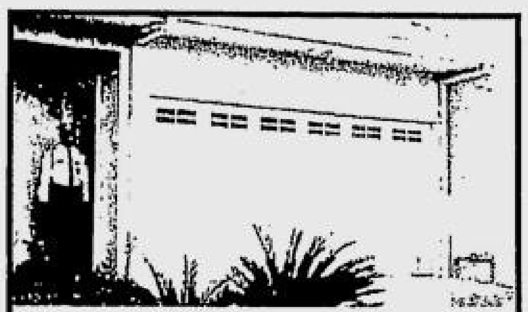

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Solons race to pass bill on laundering

CONGRESS is now racing to meet the Sept. 30 deadline set by an international task force for the Philippines to pass an anti-money laundering bill.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. yesterday said legislators would try to approve the bill in the next few days so that President Macapagal-Arroyo could sign and present by Sept. 30 the new law to the Financial Action Task Force, the Paris-based anti-money laundering watchdog whose members include the United States and Japan.

"But Sept. 30, with the other senators knowing that this (anti-money laundering bill) is a must, we will already pass the bill, it would be certified and then signed and sealed and delivered by President Macapagal-Arroyo to the FATF," Magsaysay told reporters.

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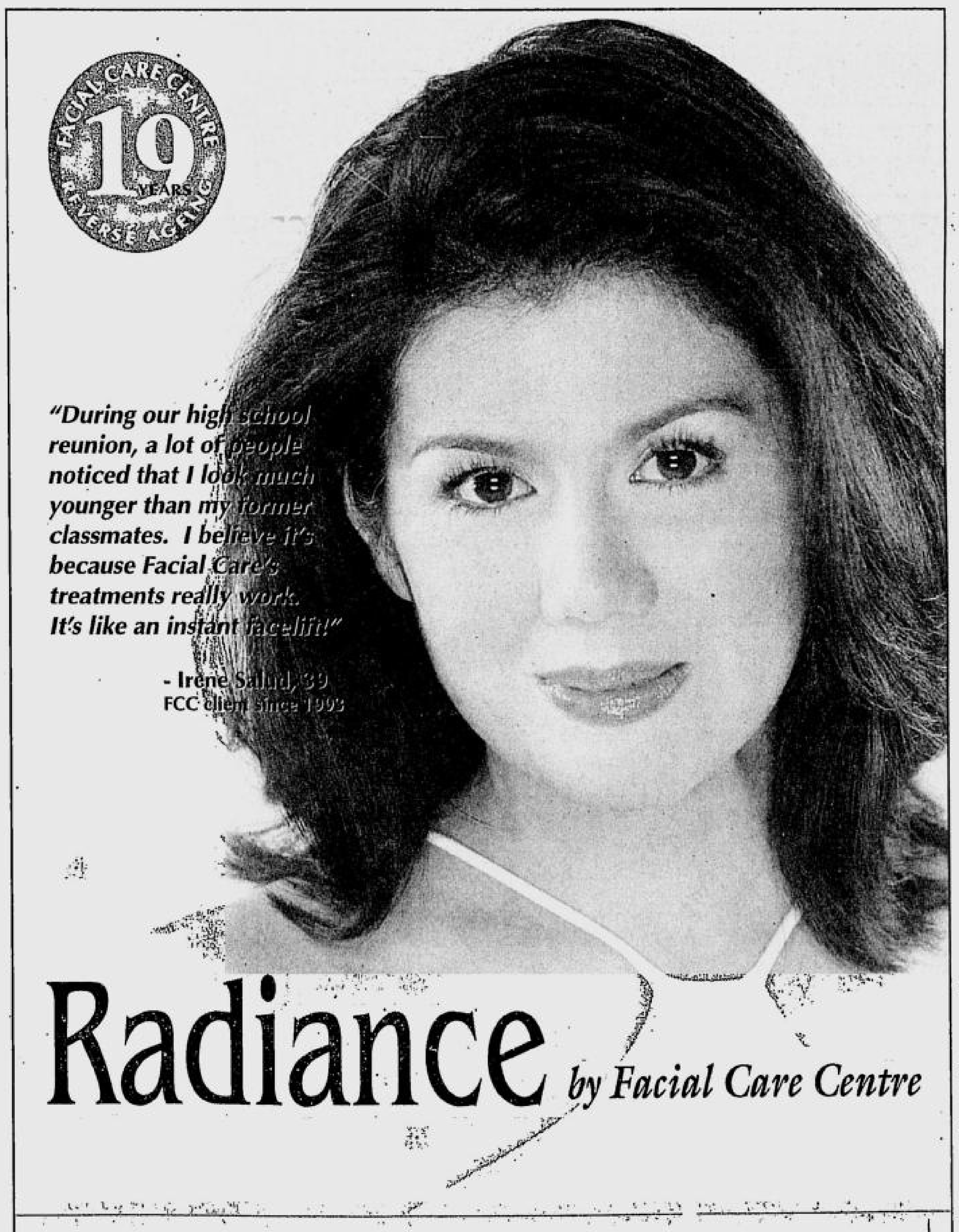
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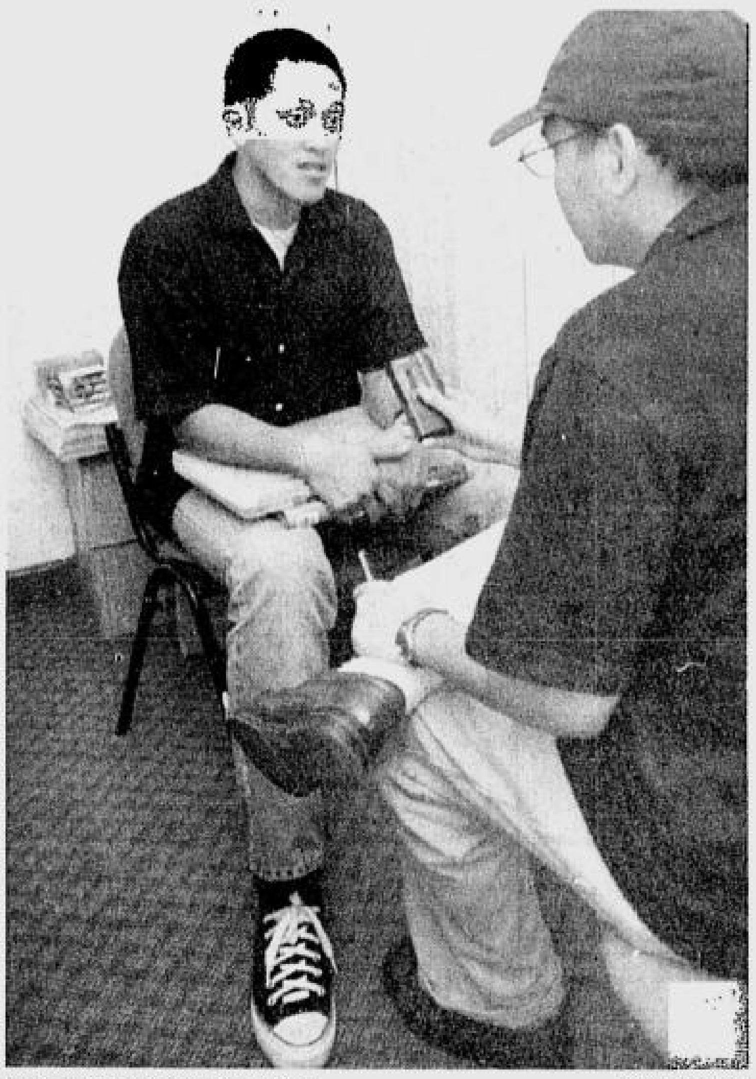

MAWANAY at Inquirer office.

JOAN BONDOC

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

EX-CIVILIAN agent Angelo "Ador" Mawanay fears for the safety of his family. But these days, he also harbors a new kind of fear.

It is the fear of being no longer wanted—particularly in the Senate inquiry into allegations of criminal activity that he and other whistleblowers had hurled at former national police chief and now Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Dropping by the INQUIRER office Monday night, Mawanay said word has reached him that he would no longer be invited by the three Senate committees looking into Lacson's alleged involvement in crimes like money laundering, drug trafficking and kidnapping.

"There are rumors going around that after the last Senate hearing that I am already quitting, which are not true. I'm also not even sure if I will be invited when the hearings resume," said Mawanay, accompanied then by his wife and his two children.

"I don't think they (senators) have heard enough of my allegations. I hope they would still call for me. But if they wouldn't, then all I can say is 'Thank you,'" he said in Taglish.

Mawanay spoke about delivering a "final blow" against Lacson should he be allowed to return to the Senate witness' seat. He declined to give details.

"There's still a lot more, that's one sure thing I can say, but for now I don't want to give an inkling as to what they may be. Or I might hear people again saying that I'm just out for media mileage; I'm not after that."

He also appealed to senators to give him and other would-be witnesses the same kind of "attention" they had given to another agent-turned-Lacson accuser, Mary Ong alias Rosebud.

With the Senate in recess and the probe temporarily shoved off the front pages by the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the US, Mawanay is now busy gathering documentary and circumstantial evidence against Lacson and his top aides in the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force of the Estrada administration.

Foremost in his list is establishing his "direct link" to Lacson as a PAOCTF agent, to further firm up his "credibility."

Mawanay wondered aloud why the senator had not confronted him face to face in the Senate hearing to bolster his claims of having no knowledge of Mawanay's work with the Task Force.

But Mawanay said he already considered a victory his having "come out with the truth in the media and up to the Senate," saying that it is not important to him whether he appeared credible enough to the public or had earned people's sympathy.

"Even if nobody believes me, I will finish this for this is the only thing I can leave my family and children. Let's say my championship ring is having Lacson (and his alleged henchmen in crime) finally jailed. I just hope I'm still alive by then."

PCGG, Customs bicker over sale of Imelda jewels

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government has castigated the Bureau of Customs for refusing to put up for joint sale three jewelry collections seized from Imelda Marcos after the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

The PCGG said it could not understand why the customs bureau has refused to turn over for joint sale the Roumiliotes collection, containing the most expensive of Imelda's jewelry worth an estimated $13 million.

The PCGG wants to auction the entire collection consisting of jewelry seized from three places—Malacañang, Hawaii and the Naia.

Except for the Roumiliotes collection, which the customs bureau is holding, the PCGG has custody of the rest of the collection which is being kept in the central bank vault.

The Roumiliotes collection was seized from a Greek national believed to be a friend of Mrs. Marcos at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport a week after the Marcoses fled the country in 1986.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. said the customs bureau had written last month informing the agency that it would go ahead with a planned sale of the Roumiliotes collection at the Naia.

He said the bureau cited a Tariff and Customs Code provision requiring the sale of seized valuables at the port in which it was confiscated. It did not say when it would hold the sale.

Carranza said the PCGG believes it would be better to sell the jewelry collection abroad where it was likely to attract higher bids.

"I don't think people would want to buy jewelry at the airport, except in the Duty Free shops," he said.

Carranza said the customs bureau would get a percentage from the sale of the Roumiliotes collection, the proceeds of which would go to the general fund.

The proceeds from the sale of the collections being held by the PCGG would go to the agrarian reform program.

"In both cases, it will go to government anyway, so we see no problem with that. I don't know why the customs bureau would rather sell it on their own when we can very well have some arrangement to jointly sell them," Carranza said.

The PCGG had tried to sell the jewelry in 1994, but was unable to work out the terms with international auctioneers, Christie's of New York and Sotheby's of London.

The government expects to realize some $800 million from the sale of the jewelry collections.

Carranza said he was not sure if the letter from the customs bureau was in response to a PCGG letter to the finance secretary proposing a joint sale of the jewelry.

Despite denials, COA stands by Comelec report

BY DONNA S. CUETO

THE AUDIT report on the Commission on Elections detailing the unliquidated cash advances of its top officials was based on accounting records from the poll body itself, the state auditor maintained yesterday.

Lawyer Antonio Magsanay Jr., the resident auditor of the Commission on Audit at the Comelec, said the cash advances were reflected in the accounting records that the Comelec had furnished the COA.

The COA report showed that the Comelec had total unliquidated advances of P1.845 billion as of December 2000, P8.58 million of which had been incurred by eight former and incumbent Comelec officials.

Of the top poll officials, Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco had the highest unliquidated cash advances of P3.97 million.

The report cited former Comelec Chair Harriet Demetriou as having unliquidated cash advances of P100,000.

But a check made by Magsanay on Monday revealed that Demetriou had already liquidated the P100,000 as of Jan. 24, 2001.

He said the COA chair's office had already issued a credit notice for the P100,000 in intelligence funds that had been liquidated by Demetriou.

Tancangco, in a press statement, denied that she had unliquidated cash advances worth P3.97 million.

But the COA has stood pat on its report, in which Tancangco was listed as a "former Comelec commissioner."

Tancangco claimed that the P3.97 million was the cash advance made by former Comelec Commissioner Teresita Dy-Liacco Flores.

She claimed that more than P3 million of that amount was "incurred as expenses in Lanao province in connection with the 1998 presidential elections," during which Flores was the designated commissioner in charge of Lanao.

But the COA report, and the list which included Tancangco's name, showed that the P3.97 million in unliquidated cash advances were incurred in the years 1996 and 2000. It did not refer to the advances as having been made during the 1998 elections.

The COA report also showed that former Comelec commissioner Flores had unliquidated advances for the years 1998 to 2000, but only in the amount of P454,899.44 and not P3 million as alleged by Tancangco.

In her press statement, Tancangco said that the COA audit on her cash advances was "part of the disinformation campaign being waged against me by my detractors in connection with the forthcoming Senate inquiry into anomalies in the Comelec."

"I am aware that the dirty tricks department of these people have gone into overdrive in a deliberate attempt to 'demonize' me and intimidate me into silence," she said in her statement.

She said that the report was also erroneous as she was still with the Comelec and "will be with the body until 2004."

The COA also reported that 10 main office directors at the Comelec also had combined unliquidated cash advances of P14.55 million.

The Comelec director with the biggest unliquidated cash advance was personnel director Andrelina Sibayan with P5.9 million in unaccounted funds for the years 1998 and 1999 alone. She was followed by DEDO Director Jose Pio Joson with P3.557 million unliquidated cash advances since 1991, and education and information director Ma. Angelina Matibag with P2.58 million in unliquidated funds for 1999 alone.

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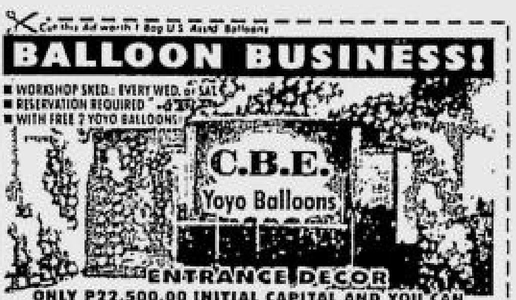

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MUDSLINGING AT COMELEC

Feuding execs hit smear job

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

COMMISSION on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo and his arch-critic, Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, are now both crying foul over alleged smear jobs against them. And they are pointing an accusing finger at each other.

Benipayo said negative stories against him and his administration have been coming out in the media lately because his confirmation was now being taken up by the Commission on Appointments.

"This is the season for confirmation and you read every day there is something in the papers against me, against my administration, and against the Comelec," Benipayo said

"You see the timing? There is a media blitz," he said.

Benipayo was reacting to a spate of negative news reports and commentaries on his administration, from the discrepancies in the voters list to alleged cheating in the May 14 elections, and lately allegations made by Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers that his brother, Cowen Benipayo, cornered a printing contract for ballots and election returns.

"Why do they come up with this only now that my confirmation is up with the CA (Commission on Appointments)?" he said. "Because some people don't want me to stay here, or a few anyway for reasons of their own."

Benipayo, along with Commissioners Rex Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr. were appointed for the third time by President Macapagal-Arroyo after the CA bypassed them on two previous sessions of Congress.

Benipayo hinted at who was behind the smear job, saying the commissioner in charge of printing could have been the source of "misinformation" fed to Barbers and the media. Tancangco chairs the Comelec's printing committee, which oversees the production of printed election paraphernalia.

But Tancangco herself said there was a "disinformation campaign" being waged against her by her detractors in connection with a report of the Commission on Audit stating she had unliquidated cash advances for the years 1996 to 2000 amounting to P3.97 million. *(See related story)*

Tancangco had promised to spill the beans at the start of the inquiry by the Senate committee on constitutional amendments and electoral reforms on alleged irregularities in the Comelec. These include the discrepancy of 500,000 in the voters' list in the May 14 elections, the approval of a resolution proclaiming Sen. Ralph Recto as 12th placer by only three of seven commissioners, and Benipayo's decision to shelve the Voters Registration and Identification System.

Tancangco had been saying she would present voluminous documents and research reports to prove her allegations of massive fraud in the May 14 elections, including some en banc resolutions signed by Benipayo and his known allies, Borra and Tuason.

Benipayo said he would welcome the Senate investigation on Tancangco's accusations, and also a congressional inquiry sought by Barbers on his alleged involvement in the illegal printing of ballots by a family-owned printing press in Manila.

While Benipayo admitted his family owned the Lucky Printing Press located at the back of the University of Sto. Tomas campus, he denied that the said firm printed ballots and election forms used in the May 14 elections.

"That printing press has no capability to print sensitive materials like election paraphernalia, much less ballots and election returns which are printed on security paper," Benipayo said in a news conference.

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Rethink budget, Palace urged

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

THE GLOBAL economic shockwave from last week's terrorist attacks in the US has sent Congress rethinking the government's proposed budget for 2002.

A House official feared that the P780-billion total allocation "may have suffered collateral damage" from the attack as growth projections and other assumptions used by Malacañang in drafting the budget may no longer be realistic.

"If fallout from the attacks will hit our economy, then the budget is affected. We just don't know yet to what extent," said Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya, chair of the House committee on appropriations.

True enough, another House member is already seeking additional funds for the possible evacuation of the 1.4 million overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East once the US strike back.

With the foreign affairs department having formulated a contingency plan for the OFWs, Congress must set a bigger budget for the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, said Batangas Rep. Frank Perez.

Andaya listed projections in gross domestic and national products, export and tourism earnings, oil prices, and the currency rate among the economic indicators that must "restudied."

Thus he has asked the development budget coordinating committee to meet with his committee again next week to drew up new, most likely lower macroeconomic assumptions in view of an imminent US retaliation.

The committee, composed of the budget and finance departments and the National Economic and Development Authority, sets the basis for the national budget presented to Congress, he explained.

US allies ask: What kind of war is it?

(From page A1)

"This is more than enough for the Philippines to honor its international commitment under the charter of the United Nations," he said. "If we want to contribute to the defeat of terrorism all over the world, we should recall these troops and deploy them in Basilan and Sulu to finish off the Abu Sayyaf."

Tiglao said Malacañang had succeeded in convincing the opposition to support its avowed policy of helping the US-led coalition against terrorism.

"The entire National Security Council, including leaders of the minority in Congress, was united in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1368 and the President's policy of extending full support to the international coalition against terrorism," he said, reading from a statement.

"There was a very admirable expression of solidarity that transcended partisan interests," he said.

Tiglao quoted Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. as saying that the terrorist attacks were against not only the United States but humanity itself.

"Since we are part of humanity, we are obligated to join the fight against global terrorism," he said, quoting Pimentel.

"This is the time that we have to show unity," House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said as he emerged from the two-and-a-half-hour meeting.

Even before the meeting, Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda said the chamber was backing the President's expression of all-out support.

Legarda said that the Senate recognized "the obligation of the state and all civilized nations to seek the common welfare of their citizens" and that "the world would be in chaos" if "evil forces" continued to do their deeds.

Remote possibilities

Tiglao said the NSC agreed with Speaker Jose de Venecia's analysis that the need for Philippine ports was "remote" as the country was too far from the expected area of conflict.

But in the possibility that the ports would be required, Tiglao said, the NSC consensus was that the Philippines would allow their use as transit points and staging grounds.

"Needless to say, such assistance would be undertaken within the framework of our Constitution and laws. In the case of ground troops, the President said she would get congressional approval for this," he said.

Specific actions not discussed

But Padilla said the opposition wanted to know the specific actions that the Philippines would take in joining the US-led coalition.

"My only concern is that the specific actions to be taken were not discussed. I think this will have to be clarified," he said.

Padilla said the President and the NSC members discussed "things that are remote" from happening.

"They said the sending of combatants is very remote, but that should it happen, the President will seek congressional approval," he said.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said there was a "unanimous feeling" during the NSC meeting that the sending of Filipino soldiers would be very remote because "the theater of action" was not in the Philippines.

"But when called upon (to send soldiers), we will be guided by the Constitution," he said.

Gonzales said that even the use of Subic and Clark as refueling or transit points for evacuees was also remote.

But should these former US bases be used by the coalition, he said, the prohibition against nuclear weapons would be enforced.

Ex-President Ramos said at the meeting that based on information he had gathered from talks with leaders abroad, the trade in illegal drugs was a major source of funds for global terrorists.

He declined to talk about the scenario of active Philippine involvement, and said the President's action should have the support of all sectors of society.

Aquino said she would lead vigils in schools and churches to pray for the victims of the attacks in New York and Washington and for an end to terrorism.

Cabinet meeting

The Cabinet also met yesterday to discuss UN Resolution 1369, overall security, Abu Sayyaf links with international terrorists, and the economic effect of the terrorist attacks in the United States.

They likewise assessed the government's capability to respond to disasters in Metro Manila and fire prevention capabilities of the government.

Relocate oil depot

A report by The Associated Press said the President had decided to relocate an oil depot in Pandacan near Malacañang as a precaution against sabotage.

"It is a fire hazard and a national security hazard," AP quoted Tiglao as saying.

Asked if the Cabinet discussed the possibility of germ warfare being waged by terrorists, Tiglao said no.

For now, he said, the administration's "full, unqualified support" for the US-led coalition would involve to letting its forces use Philippine ports.

"Obviously, for military capability, we cannot be sending troops. We cannot help them in attacking ... terrorist lairs," he said.

Tiglao said the President's statement about supporting the US government "even if we have to pay the price" was a general statement meant to signify unity with the world against terrorism.

"What we're saying here is that this is not just allying with the US, this is an international coalition. I think we should emphasize that the terrorist attack on the US was a historical event," he said, adding:

"For the first time, citizens of 35 countries were killed in a terrorist attack, and this is the first time that the entire world will muster its will to go against terrorism."

Asked if the government was concerned that the move could invite reprisal from terrorists, Tiglao said the Filipinos would have "to live with that."

"We really have to choose sides. Are we on the side of the civilized world or on the side of barbarism?" he said.

'General sense'

Legarda said the Senate affirmed the "general sense" of the UN resolution that called for nations to join the international coalition against terrorism.

She also expressed optimism that her fellow senators would work closely with the President "and rise to the challenges that we face as a nation and as a member of the world community."

Before Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. joined the NSC meeting, he appealed to the opposition in the Senate to "support the strong executive action" of the President.

But the militant group Sanlakas said the NSC meeting was "a council of war called to rubber-stamp the all-out support" for the planned US-led military action.

"The pro-war government officials are a mob masquerading as moralists," Sanlakas spokesperson Wilson Fortaleza said.

Members of Sanlakas' youth wing picketed the US Embassy in Manila and called for "an international peace initiative instead of war." *With reports from Jerome Aning, AP*

SABAYA

Strong stock rally . . .

(From page A1)

in Tokyo, Sydney, Wellington, Bangkok, Jakarta and Manila.

Many markets, however, gave up their gains in late trade while Hong Kong and Singapore ended in the red on reports—later denied—that Afghanistan's ruling Taliban had declared a "jihad" against the United States.

Losses were substantial Tuesday morning across Europe where blue chips were off by 1.4 percent in London, 1.5 percent in Frankfurt and 2.1 percent in Paris.

In the Asia-Pacific region, however, there was a sense early in the trading day that the damage in New York had been contained although the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 7.1 percent in its biggest-ever point loss and the Nasdaq tumbled 6.8 percent.

The US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank averted what could have been a massacre by cutting their key interest rates by half a percentage point early Monday in a bid to lessen the impact the terror attacks might have on an already stumbling global economy.

The central banks of Switzerland, Canada and Sweden followed suit, and the Danish central bank also cut its rates Tuesday. The Bank of Japan likewise eased monetary policy.

Nikkei

At the giant Tokyo market, blue chips moved higher from the outset. The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average finished up 175.47 points, or 1.9 percent, at 9,679.88.

The Nikkei had climbed by 4.6 percent in the early afternoon, however, before retreating late in the session due to bomb threats.

A bomb threat prompted the evacuation of a downtown office building housing Citibank, J.P. Morgan and Nikko Salomon Smith Barney.

"I don't think we have seen the last of the falls either in Tokyo or elsewhere, so it is a very much nervous situation just waiting to crumble at any further bad news," said Noriko Hama, chief economist at Mitsubishi Research Institute in Tokyo.

A day earlier, the Nikkei plunged 5 percent to 9,504.41, hitting its lowest level for nearly 18 years.

Australian shares clung to early gains on Tuesday, ending 1.8 percent firmer. The All Ordinaries index rose 53.1 points to 2,948.5 while the SP/ASX 200 added 54.8 points to 3,010.1.

"The market has been treated fairly harshly and I guess we have some bargain hunters moving in," said Paul Lucas, an institutional adviser at the Australian investment house Hartley Poynton in Sydney.

In previous sessions since the destruction of New York's World Trade Center, the Australian share market had fallen almost 10 percent.

Craig Robins, head of equities at Salomon Smith Barney in Wellington, New Zealand, called the 2.2 gain there "a little bit of a relief rally."

Shares closed sharply higher in trade in Seoul as retail investors hunted for bargains.

Dealers said the Korean government's announcement of stock market stabilization measures, combined with some strength in the Nasdaq 100 futures, added to the positive sentiment, with investor interest focusing on brokerages.

The composite index finished 16.17 points or 3.4 percent stronger at 484.93.

HK, Singapore

In Hong Kong, however, the Hang Seng Index finished with a loss of 0.1 percent after giving up big early gains that came when the rest of the markets across the region were surging ahead.

With traders nervously waiting to see whether Wall Street can show stability in its second session since the attacks in New York and Washington, the news from Afghanistan "knocked confidence locally," said Miles Remington, head of sales of SG Securities in Hong Kong.

Many investors, however, were encouraged to see Hong Kong slash its official interest rates by half a point Tuesday.

Gathering around stock terminals in Hong Kong bank branches to watch prices fluctuate, some small investors expressed surprise at seeing prices sharply higher in the morning.

"It's not a time to sell or buy, because there is so much instability," said William Tong, a 50-year-old clerk.

"Also, as the shares that I am holding have already lost so much of their value, what else can I do but wait?" he added.

Singapore shares also fell 0.8 percent despite early gains. The Straits Times Index slipped 10.15 points to 1,324.3.

"I think the main reason is that there were reports of the Taliban declaring holy war, then these were denied. I think the market still believes there will be a counter attack by the US and it's just a question of how and when," a dealer at a regional brokerage said.

Malaysian stocks also ended 0.2 percent weaker Tuesday in volatile trade amid fears of a war between the United States and Afghanistan's Taliban, dealers said.

The Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange's composite index fell 1.36 points to finish at 607.64, from a high of 627.32 and low of 589.90.

RP shares

Philippine stocks closed higher across the board Tuesday, boosted by expectations of a cut in central bank overnight rates and hopes across Asia that the worst of the losses triggered by the US terror attacks may be over.

Led by index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone, the 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index broke its key 1200-point resistance to close up 28.27 points, or 2.4 percent, at 1206.38.

The Phisix lost 58.31 points, or 4.7 percent, finishing at 1178.11 on Monday, its lowest closing level since Oct. 6, 1998. The index had already fallen 9.1 percent since the attacks in America.

As the stock market closed, the Monetary Board held a special meeting but decided not to cut its benchmark interest rates.

The Thai stock market rebounded 1.3 percent Tuesday but profit-taking erased strong gains made earlier in the session amid continuing uncertainty over US retaliatory strikes, analysts said.

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) composite index gained 3.60 points to close at 274.21 points and the blue chip SET 50 index was up 0.26 of a point to 18.16.

Indonesian shares also closed 1.6 percent firmer Tuesday, although off their highs. The Jakarta Stock Exchange composite index ended up 6.58 points at 413.833, off a high of 417.701.

Opinions differ

In New York, opinions differed over whether Wall Street would now recover—or dive deeper toward a world recession.

The influential Wall Street Journal quoted Hardwick Simmons, the president of the Nasdaq Stock Market, as saying the worst was over.

"The negative side always gets out of the way first. The positive side takes longer. All the strength in this market is not in the game yet," he said.

Other US media said it was likely that many investors would again run to the defensive stocks that were heavily bought Monday, namely cigarette companies, beverage groups such as Coca-Cola, and—unsurprisingly—makers of US military aircraft and weapons.

Airlines and insurance companies—the sectors most affected by the immediate aftermath of the September 11 attacks on the destroyed World Trade Center and the damaged Pentagon—bore the brunt of the bull run in New York on Monday.

About P65 billion in market capitalization was wiped from some of the world's biggest airlines, including American Airlines and United—the two companies whose aircraft were hijacked in last week's outrage. *Reports by AFP and AP*

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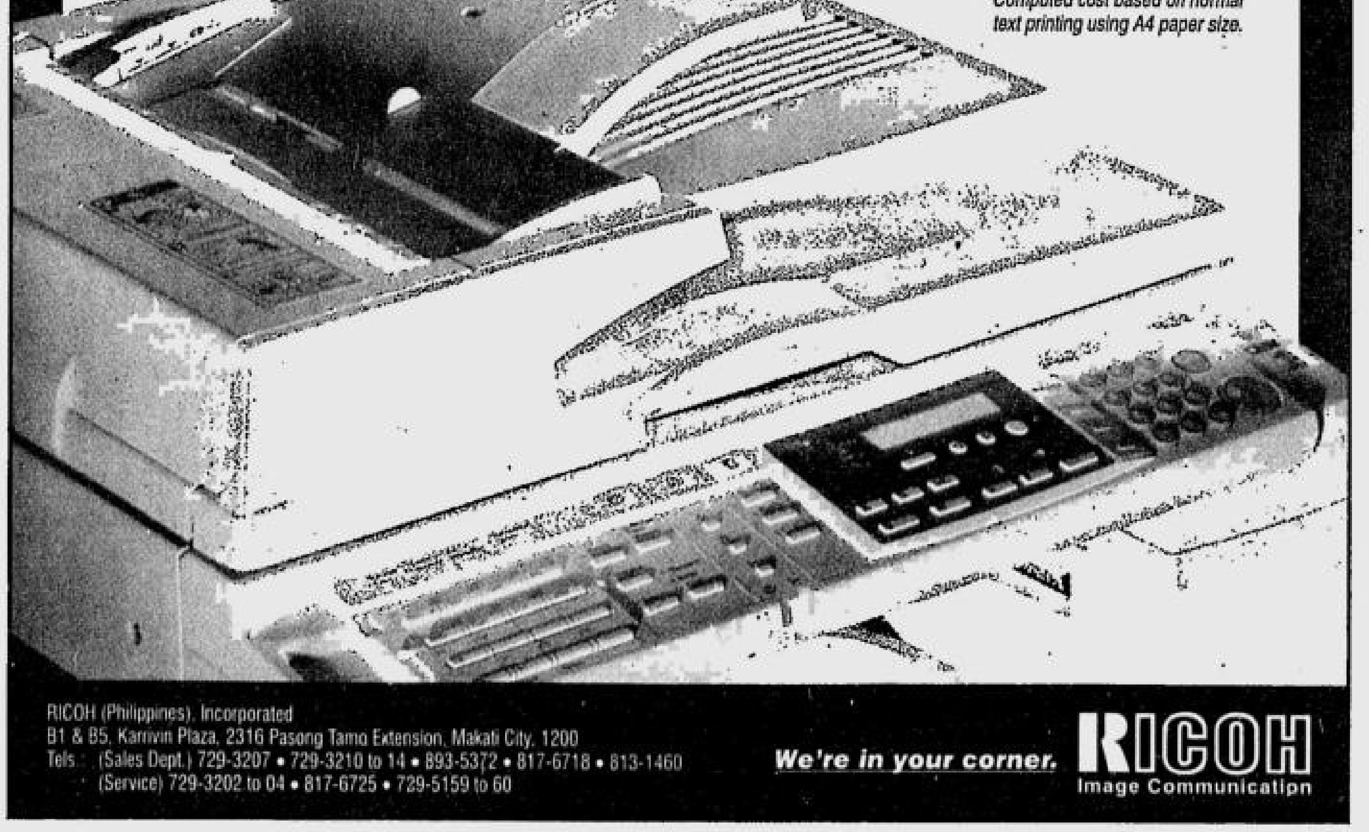

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How do you guard against Bin Laden's 'sleepers'?

HAMBURG, Germany—Only in retrospect were there any signals that three Arab students living and studying in Germany were terrorists in waiting.

Final farewells. Cryptic questions. Dedicating work to Allah. On their own, none of this portended very much.

But in the aftermath of the deadly attacks on the United States last week, even their studies take on a ghastly overtone: Urban planning. Aircraft construction. Pilot training.

Mohammed Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah were classic "sleepers"—agents who stay out of trouble until they are activated, making them much harder to identify.

Only after the three men died in the attacks did federal prosecutors, acting on a tip from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), pinpoint the Hamburg cell they believe formed early this year to target symbolic US targets.

People who knew the men during their years in Germany are now looking for significance in their words and deeds.

And following five arrests of men with links to Osama bin Laden since December and the Munich arrest of Bin Laden's finance chief in 1998, shocked German authorities are trying to figure out why the intelligence community didn't detect the Hamburg group and their intentions before their deadly strikes.

"We knew that we had these cells in the country. That's good, but what you really need to do is watch the sleepers," said Bernd Schmidbauer, the German government's intelligence chief in the 1990s. "I'm not blaming anybody, but we do need to improve cooperation internationally."

He said sleepers were usually fed instructions—and possibly cash—by couriers from their international terrorist groups, making it harder to find them using high-tech surveillance on which intelligence operations have tended to rely.

"They stay underground like any agent in a cheap spy novel," he said.

Mohamed Atta, 33, who the FBI said was on American Airlines Flight 11—the first plane to hit the World Trade Center—began work on a degree in urban planning Hamburg's Technical University in 1992.

Already an architect, he chose the specialized field of the preservation and history of towns, concentrating on Islamic cities, his thesis supervisor Professor Dittmar Machule said.

Polite and kind

Sitting on Monday at the same wood table with chipped red paint where Atta defended his thesis, Machule said it was hard to reconcile his impression of a polite and kind student with the terrorist on TV.

"I had no signs that there was radicalism in his thinking when he was here," Machule said. "It is an irony that he studied town planning and then destroyed a town."

Martin Ebert, 31, a former classmate, knew Atta as a man who was deeply religious, but unfazed by Ebert's atheist upbringing in former communist East Germany.

"I was very sad at first after learning about what he did, but now, after some days, I'm really terribly angry," Ebert said from his home in Norway. "He lied to us all, and not only that, he did these terrible things."

But there were signs, both Ebert and Machule said. Just nothing they recognized at the time.

During school, Atta, whom they knew as Mohamed El-Amir, would frequently disappear for months. He never told Ebert where he was going and told Machule he had to go home to Cairo for family problems.

In 1995, after beginning his thesis, he disappeared for nearly four years, Machule said. He reappeared to finish and defend his work in 1999—sporting a traditional Muslim beard.

In his dissertation, on the development of an area of the northern Syrian trading city of Aleppo, there was nothing to betray Atta's politics, Machule said.

"There's no anti-Americanism, no anti-Zionism, no anti-Christianity," Machule said. "Just good thinking."

Death belongs to Allah

But on a page Atta included between the cover and the last page of the document, Machule found a phrase from the Quran in German and in Arabic: "My prayers and my offerings and my life and my death belong to Allah, master of the world."

"I was astounded," Machule said. "But when I asked him about it the explanation was simple. He said, 'It's because I'm very happy to have finished this hard work and want to offer it to my God for my future life.' I had no doubts about the explanation. Now, maybe I have doubts."

Atta lived off-campus with his nephew al-Shehhi, who was identified Monday by a senior official in the United Arab Emirates as possibly belonging to Bin Laden's Al Qaeda group—the first tenuous link between the German suspects and the prime suspect in Tuesday's attack.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Atta may have recruited al-Shehhi—who the FBI says was aboard United Airlines Flight 175, the second flight to hit the World Trade Center.

According to one of al-Shehhi's relatives, who spoke on condition of anonymity, al-Shehhi, 23, spent most of his time in his native United Arab Emirates in a mosque next to his house, reading the Quran and praying.

He was also withdrawn, rarely socializing with his peers.

Al-Shehhi would accompany his father to the mosque and would make the call to prayer if his father was late.

In 1997, he began studying German at the University of Bonn under the name Marwan Lekrab, according to the school.

The relative said during one of his rare returns to the Emirates, his mother offered to apply for a bank loan and start a business for him. He refused and told her he was leaving.

In 2000, Atta and al-Shehhi, took pilot training courses together in Florida, the FBI said.

Friends surprised

The third Hamburg suspect, Jarrah, 26, surprised friends in 1999, when he suddenly announced he was leaving his studies at a Hamburg technical college where he had been studying aircraft construction for two years.

He asked one of his best friends if he would miss him when he was gone. *AP*

World counts human cost of terror attacks

(From page A1)

The missing figure included 300 firefighters, 44 Port Authority police, 23 police officers, an FBI agent and a Secret Service agent.

Officials said 201 bodies had so far been pulled from the wreckage of the twin-tower World Trade Center and 135 of them had been identified.

The total death toll was expected to be 5,856, including the 265 people on board the four hijacked planes, one of which crashed in Pennsylvania, and 189 from the Pentagon, which also was struck by a hijacked airliner.

ARGENTINA said four of its nationals were missing.

AUSTRALIA said three of its nationals were confirmed dead. Another 69 were unaccounted for.

AUSTRIA said 40 of its nationals were missing.

BANGLADESH said at least 50 Bangladeshis were presumed killed in the carnage.

BELGIUM said only one of its nationals remains missing, a sharp drop from a previous toll issued Friday that said 60 Belgians were still unaccounted for.

BRAZIL said at least 55 of its nationals were missing.

BRITAIN said nearly 100 of its citizens were confirmed dead. Prime Minister Tony Blair said Sunday that the death toll of Britons, probably 200 to 300, would be the highest in any attack since the end of World War II.

CAMBODIA said it feared that some 20 of its nationals were missing.

CANADA said three of its nationals were confirmed dead and between 40 and 75 were still missing.

CHILE said three of its nationals were missing and feared dead, although more than 250 have been reported missing by relatives.

CHINA said that two Chinese nationals died and another was missing. A man and woman, both in their 60s, died aboard the plane that was sent into the side of the Pentagon.

COLOMBIA's Red Cross said 295 people were reported missing. Two were aboard a hijacked plane.

The CZECH REPUBLIC said 66 Czech nationals were still unaccounted for. A Czech Foreign Ministry official said that 136 were initially feared missing.

DENMARK's foreign ministry said five Danish tourists were still unaccounted for.

The DOMINICAN REPUBLIC said one citizen was found dead and seven are missing.

ECUADOR listed seven citizens as dead and 20 missing.

EGYPT's ambassador to the United States said four Egyptians were feared dead.

EL SALVADOR said one of its citizens died on one of the four hijacked planes, and up to 100 others were missing.

FINLAND said three nationals were not accounted for. The Finnish consulate in New York originally said it was trying to track down 17 nationals.

FRANCE said a small number of its nationals working in the World Trade Center were unaccounted for. A foreign ministry spokesperson said no French dead have yet been confirmed.

GERMANY said 205 of its nationals were still missing after the attack, but a foreign ministry spokesperson said the number of Germans killed was likely to be much higher. On Friday, the ministry had said some 700 Germans were missing.

GHANA said "scores" of its nationals had worked in the World Trade Center and not all had been accounted for. According to private radio, at least four Ghanaians, one a woman, have been reported missing by their families.

GUATEMALA said five of its citizens are missing.

HONG KONG said 19 people were missing.

HONDURAS said one of its nationals was killed at the trade center, but added that it had information that up to 500 Hondurans and Salvadorans worked in the towers.

INDONESIA said one of its citizens died on one of the four hijacked planes and another of its citizens was missing.

IRELAND said four Irish citizens had been confirmed dead. More than 20 other Irish nationals were missing.

ISRAEL said two of its nationals died on board the doomed flights and two others were missing. Six other Israelis who were near the World Trade Center are unaccounted for.

ITALY said 10 Italian nationals have been reported missing, but the figure may change because a total of 49 people with Italian names are on a list of those unaccounted for.

JAPAN said two Japanese died on the hijacked planes and another 22 were missing, presumed dead. The Tokyo Shimbun newspaper quoted a foreign ministry official as saying it appeared likely the final toll would be between 40 and 70, although it could go to 100 "in the worst case."

JORDAN said one of its nationals, who also had US citizenship, was believed to be in the World Trade Center at the time of the attack.

KENYA was missing one national, a computer analyst.

LEBANON said two of its nationals, including one of the suspected hijackers, are confirmed dead and four others are missing.

MALAYSIA said four of its nationals working in the World Trade Center were missing.

MEXICO was missing 19 nationals in the attacks on the World Trade Center. The Mexican consul in New York said 150 Mexicans worked in the center, though media said hundreds more worked in the restaurants on the lower levels and in the immediate vicinity. Tepayac, a network of Mexican community organizations, said as many as 500 Mexicans are feared dead in the collapsed towers.

THE NETHERLANDS said at least three citizens had died.

NORWAY said one tourist is unaccounted.

PAKISTAN said one Pakistani has been confirmed dead in the attacks and 20 were still missing. Another 15 were injured, some seriously, after being pulled from the rubble. A government spokesman said around 650 Pakistani nationals worked in the World Trade Center.

PARAGUAY said two of its citizens were missing.

PERU had one dead and five missing.

THE PHILIPPINES said two Filipinos were confirmed dead and 115 were missing.

PORTUGAL said five Portuguese were believed to have died.

RUSSIA said 117 of its nationals were missing and believed killed.

SPAIN said it was without news of eight of its citizens.

SOUTH AFRICA said at least one of its nationals was presumed dead. He was aboard the first aircraft flown into the World Trade Center. Five South Africans are still unaccounted for.

SOUTH KOREA's foreign ministry said 15 of its nationals were missing, and 14 who had been hospitalized for injuries have been released.

SWEDEN said one Swede was missing.

SWITZERLAND said four of its citizens were killed: two on board one of the planes and two in the towers. Two others were missing.

THAILAND has said two Thais are missing. Another 17 staff working for government agencies with offices in the buildings have been accounted for.

TURKEY said it was tracking 131 people still unaccounted for. A total of 326 Turks had been traced alive out of 457 reported missing. Around 500 Turks worked in the World Trade Center.

TAIWAN said nine Taiwanese were missing.

UKRAINE said one man was missing.

URUGUAY's former cycling champion Alberto Dominguez, 65, was on one of the flights that crashed into the twin towers.

VENEZUELA reported two men and a woman missing.

ZIMBABWE reported two of its citizens were missing. *AFP*

Investigation continues in US, world

WASHINGTON—Investigation across the United States and the world continues.

US law enforcement officials investigating last week's terrorist attacks are pulling in more people for questioning, stationing armed guards on commercial jets and asking lawmakers for new laws to clamp down on terrorism.

As of Monday, the FBI had detained 49 people for questioning, holding them on immigration violations, double the number of several days ago. Some have asked for lawyers, and none have been charged in the attacks that may have killed more than 5,000 people.

In addition, authorities across the world are looking for nearly 200 other people to question in last Tuesday's attacks on New York City's World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Attorney General John Ashcroft said associates of the hijackers "may be a continuing presence in the United States."

The FBI is keeping a tight hold on its witnesses, jailing an unspecified number of them because they might otherwise flee. The Justice Department previously confirmed two people were arrested on such warrants.

Courts have sealed all information about those arrested.

Asked to characterize whether those in custody were talking, FBI Director Robert Mueller said that "there are individuals cooperating, yes," while adding that others were not.

The US remained on alert for further attacks, with authorities making it clear any aircraft on a rogue course would be shot down by fighter pilots.

Federal agencies were being asked to contribute armed plainclothes security officials while the Federal Aviation Administration begins to train a new generation of marshals to provide security on airplanes.

Sky marshals

Ashcroft outlined the sky marshals plan along with additional details of the legislative package he asked the US Congress to pass immediately.

It would include use of the money-laundering statutes to prosecute people who provide resources to a terrorist organization.

The package also included nationwide wiretap authorization so that when a suspected terrorist moved around the country, law enforcement agencies wouldn't have to get additional court approval for a wiretap in a different jurisdiction.

FBI Director Robert Mueller said the FBI was pursuing some 50,000 leads from information sent to the agency's website, as well as nearly 8,000 tips called into the FBI's hotline and some 26,000 leads from FBI field offices.

Mueller added that 500 people at FBI headquarters were working 24 hours a day coordinating the investigation across the US and the world. More than 30 FBI legal offices and intelligence services abroad are also involved in the probe.

Agents have searched hotels, motels and apartment complexes nationwide for clues.

The list of possible witnesses has been sent to more than 18,000 local and state law enforcement agencies, officials have said.

An FBI spokesperson in San Diego, Jan Caldwell, said three of the men identified as hijackers had lived in the southern Californian city and learned to fly there.

Additional details emerged about one of the hijackers and possible associates.

Small planes

Hani Hanjour, suspected of crashing American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon, trained at a flight school in Bowie, Maryland, flying small planes over the Washington area at least three times in the six weeks prior to last Tuesday's attack.

Chief flight instructor Marcel Bernard said Monday that Hanjour wanted to demonstrate his flying competency. But the airport used by the flight school wouldn't rent planes to Hanjour for solo flights because of doubts about his flying skills and his refusal to provide an address and phone number.

International probe

The probe has expanded internationally, with law enforcement in Canada, Germany, Japan, Belgium, Holland and Ecuador looking into possible links to a terrorist network masterminded by Saudi-born extremist Osama bin Laden—named by Washington as the prime suspect in Tuesday's onslaught.

Nineteen homes have been searched in Germany for clues on the activities of three foreign students whose names appeared on the passenger lists of the ill-fated planes: Mohamed Atta, 33, Marwan Al-Shehhi 23, and Ziad Amir Jarrah, 26.

All three, presumed to have died on the planes and suspected by the FBI of taking part in their hijacking, lived and studied in Hamburg and attended flight schools in Florida.

Colombia was looking for bank accounts linked to bin Laden, with officials saying they would freeze them if any were found.

Shortselling

As the international manhunt continued, US stock regulators were also looking into the possibility that bin Laden sought to profit from the attacks by shortselling stocks of firms likely to be affected by the strikes, such as large insurance companies.

The Italian stock market regulatory agency had earlier said it was investigating suspicious trading movements on the day of the attacks as well as the previous day.

FBI agents pressed to learn whether any of those already in custody may have assisted the hijackings, were thwarted in their own efforts to hijack other planes or planned to carry out other attacks against Americans.

Among those being detained were two men who left on a plane from Newark, New Jersey, around the time of the attacks, and then took an Amtrak train to Texas from St. Louis after their plane was grounded as part of the government-ordered shutdown of the US aviation system.

Ayub Ali Khan, 51, and Mohammed Jaweed Azmath, 47, were removed from an Amtrak train during a routine drug search Wednesday night.

No drugs were found, but the men had box-cutting knives and about $5,000 in cash, according to a federal official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hijackers in Tuesday's attacks used knives and box cutters to commandeer the four airliners.

The FBI was aggressively questioning their acquaintances in New Jersey, where at least 13 people were being detained, officials said.

Agents also raided apartments and questioned several people in a New Jersey neighborhood that was once home to blind sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, convicted of plotting the 1993 bombing of the trade center and other New York landmarks.

Khan and Azmath have been flown by authorities to New York, as was another man who had been held in Minnesota, officials said. ***Reports from AP and AFP***

Seer sees bombs . . .

(From page A1)

predicting that the United States will bomb a country that starts with the letter A or I.

She is also predicting that Japan will be the next target of the terrorists and that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein will join the fray.

But these don't mean that World War III is in our midst, according to the seer.

Madame Auring said these were among her "vibrations" about the brewing conflict, which she gamely shared with the media at the "Bulong Pulungan" forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Organizers of the forum noted that Madame Auring had correctly predicted that Joseph Estrada would win the 1998 elections and that Estrada would be ousted from office.

Madame Auring was also proven right that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would take over the presidency.

Butt of jokes

Despite her predictions that allegedly came true, the seer has become the butt of jokes for some people.

They said that it was Madame Auring, who had once divined that the next US President after Bill Clinton was someone with a four-letter name.

She said her crystal ball showed that many people would die in the country that the US would bomb.

Her advice to Filipinos: Don't travel to the US for now.

As for Japan, the terrorist will target its highest tower, according to Madame Auring. The highest building in Japan is the 70-story, 296-meter high Yokohama Landmark Tower.

These events would adversely affect the country's economy but Ms Macapagal would be "doing her best to improve the country's economy," Madame Auring said.

One of her predictions would be music to the ears of the President.

GMA reelection

"As long as there are no obstacles," Ms Macapagal would be reelected after she finishes her term in 2004, Madame Auring said.

On Estrada, who is detained on plunder charges, Madame Auring expects the deposed president to get a presidential pardon.

Behind bars is what the seer sees of embattled Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Lacson is the subject of a Senate inquiry into the military's claim that he had engaged in criminal activities like money laundering, drug trafficking, kidnap for ransom and summary executions.

"*Maghihimas siya ng malaking rehas* (He will be holding on to big bars)" she said of Lacson.

Madame Auring said it was even possible that Lacson would be handcuffed at the airport upon his return from the US.

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4 GRAFT CASES

Imelda plea to dismiss rejected

By **Donna S. Cueto**

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has rejected Imelda Marcos' petition for the dismissal of four graft cases against her in connection with the Marcoses' Swiss deposits in the name of three foundations, and in the Banque Paribas.

The cases had been filed in the Sandiganbayan in 1995 but the prosecution has yet to submit supporting affidavits and other evidence that would allow the court to issue a finding of probable cause or issue an arrest warrant for Imelda, the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The cases were based on Imelda's alleged participation in the management of the ill-gotten Marcos assets in the Vibur, Aguamina and Avertina foundations, and in accounts under Banque Paribas.

The court has repeatedly issued resolutions directing government lawyers to submit documentary evidence for more than five years.

Imelda's lawyers have sought the dismissal of the cases on the ground of the long delay arising from the failure of the prosecution to submit evidence.

But the Sandiganbayan's 4th Division denied this motion "for lack of merit" in a resolution promulgated on Sept. 14.

The court said that although the Special Prosecutor and the Ombudsman had delayed for more than five years complying with its orders, "the proceeding was not attended by vexatious, capricious and oppressive delay."

Imelda cited the cases of Tatad vs Sandiganbayan and Anchangco Jr. vs Ombudsman in seeking the dismissal of the graft cases against her, alleging "excessive, inordinate and unreasonable delay."

The court said, however, that the delay was "not unreasonable."

It said documents that the Ombudsman needed were with the National Bureau of Investigation, the justice department and the Solicitor General's office.

It said the Ombudsman's office had a difficult time coordinating with these institutions "just to make sure that the evidence are on hand in order to avoid the exposure of the accused to trial without sufficient evidence gathered against her."

It noted that Imelda had never demanded nor taken any action for the early termination of the cases although she was fully aware of the various proceedings before the Ombudsman.

"Her much belated claim of unreasonable delay only casts doubt on the sincerity of her stance," the court said.

It said the Marcos graft cases lacked an important feature of the Anchangco case that would have made possible their dismissal: in the former case, the accused filed several motions for an early resolution, which Imelda did not do.

The court's resolution was signed by all three members of the 4th Division, Associate Justices Nicodemo Ferrer, Rodolfo Palattao and chair Narcisco Nario.

6 more Pinoys missing in NY

By **Dona Pazzibugan**

SIX more Filipinos were reported missing in New York in connection with last week's terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, bringing the total to 19, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement yesterday.

In a report to the DFA, the Philippine Consulate General in New York identified the six as Cesar Alviar, Bernardo Gallardo, Lyn Corea Gray, Rufino Flores Santos, Larry Sumaya and Fil-American David N. Sullins.

Thirteen Filipinos believed to be working in various firms located inside the World Trade at the time of the attack were earlier reported missing.

These are Marlyn Bautista, Grace Alegre Cua who work for Mitsui Bank; Jay Ciril Dichavez, Benilda Domingo, Judy Fernandez, Ramon Grihalvo who work for Morgan Stanley; Frederick Kuo Jr., Arnold Lim, Carl Allen Peralta who work for Cantor Fitzgerald Securities; Maritess Santillan, Hector Tamayo who work for the Vandervilt Group Construction; Jhoanna Vidal and Cynthia Betita Tinio Motus Wilson.

A Manila-based DFA task force said one of those earlier reported missing, Renato Bonifacio, was taken out of the list after the consulate reported that his last known whereabouts was either in San Francisco or Los Angeles, California.

The task force has not received reports of additional Filipino fatalities aside from Fil-Americans Ruben Ornedo and Romeo Gamboa who were aboard the hijacked American Airlines and United Airlines flights that were crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington D.C. on Sept. 11.

The DFA set up the 24-hour task force to help those who have not been able to contact family members and relatives in New York and Washington D.C. since the attacks.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 19, 2001
24th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **1 Tim 3:14-16**
Gospel: **Lk 7:31-35**

Jesus said, "What comparison can I use for this people? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace, about whom their companions complain: 'We piped you a tune and you wouldn't dance; we sang funeral songs and you wouldn't cry.'

Remember John: he didn't eat bread or drink wine, and you said: 'He has an evil spirit.' Next came the Son of Man, eating and drinking, and you say: 'Look, a glutton for food and wine, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But the children of Wisdom always recognize her work:"

Commentary

Comparisons are odious. But they are made to challenge those to whom they are addressed. In comparing his contemporaries to the "children squatting in the city squares," Jesus unveils their predicament to him. They never find anything right in him. John the Baptist was sent to prepare them for his coming, but they did not listen to him. Their rejection of John is also a rejection of Jesus. Without difficulty, we Christians of today have responded to God's initial call through baptism. But how about the subsequent calls that concretize it in our times? There is a danger for us to become like the scribes and Pharisees, if we don't continue responding to God's call, because we have lost enthusiasm in our faith.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE/EVIDENCE)—It is settled that the trial court's assessment of the credibility of witnesses is generally accorded great respect because it had the opportunity to hear them and to observe their demeanor and manner of testifying. The exception is when it overlooked or misapplied some facts which could have affected the result of the case. Indeed, the proximate contact of the trial court with those who take the witness stand places it in a more competent position to discriminate between a true and false testimony. With respect to declarations, acts and omissions of accused-appellant after the crime, these may be received in evidence against him as provided by Rule 130, Section 26 of the Revised Rules on Evidence. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Olivo, Jr., G.R. No. 130335, January 18, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

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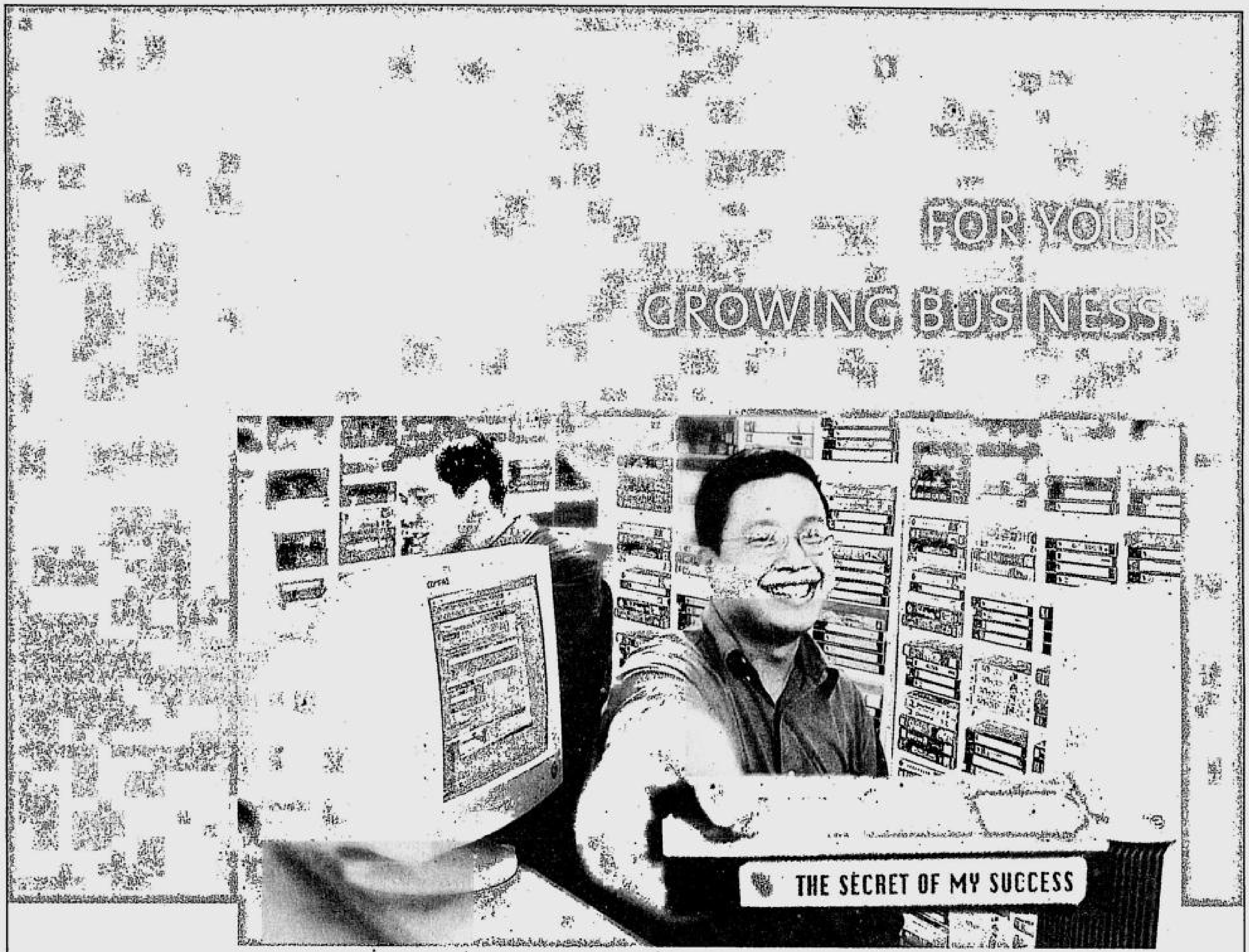

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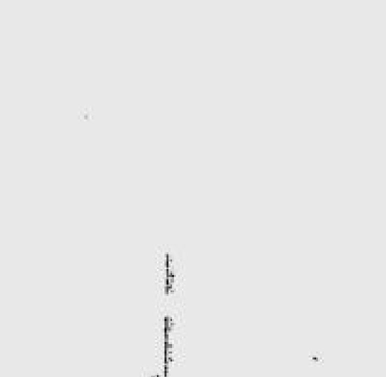

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Costly delay

EDITORIAL

WHEN our senators and congressmen come back from their two-week recess on Monday, they will be doing the nation a favor if they start serious work on crafting an anti-money laundering law. It's much too late in the day for Congress to beat the Sept. 30 deadline set by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF), but maybe an earnest of its intention to pass the measure could spare us a lot of inconvenience, if not worse economic troubles than what we already have.

Even this early, the screws are already being tightened. Some foreign banks have refused to handle transactions involving Philippine corporations, according to Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura. Some US banks have said they would not deal with Philippine banks because of the inconvenience and the higher cost of doing business with countries on the FATF list. The list identifies the countries considered as havens for dirty money.

When the FATF finally imposes its sanctions, even ordinary transactions will be subjected to a rigorous process of checking, with banks abroad requiring Philippine banks to provide information regarding the sender or recipient of the money. Because of this, local companies will find it harder to borrow money from foreign creditors and banks will be charging higher interest and higher fees for their services. The net result could be scarcer credit, a significant slowing down of financial transactions and ultimately a virtual paralysis of Philippine business and the economy.

That's a terrible price to pay for a law that could even help the government make war on serious crimes like the plunder of the treasury, graft and corruption and drug trafficking. Our strict bank secrecy law has made the country a haven for money that is ill-gotten or derived from criminal activities. How tough it is to crack the secret accounts of the criminally inclined was illustrated by the difficulty encountered by the prosecution panel in getting local banks to produce records of then President Estrada's bank accounts during his impeachment trial. At the time, both Estrada's lawyers and banks officials tried to shield Estrada's accounts from scrutiny by invoking the bank secrecy law even though expressly exempts from its coverage impeachment proceedings. Only a bank run mounted by an aroused citizenry forced Equitable PCI-Bank to produce the records of the Jose Velarde account.

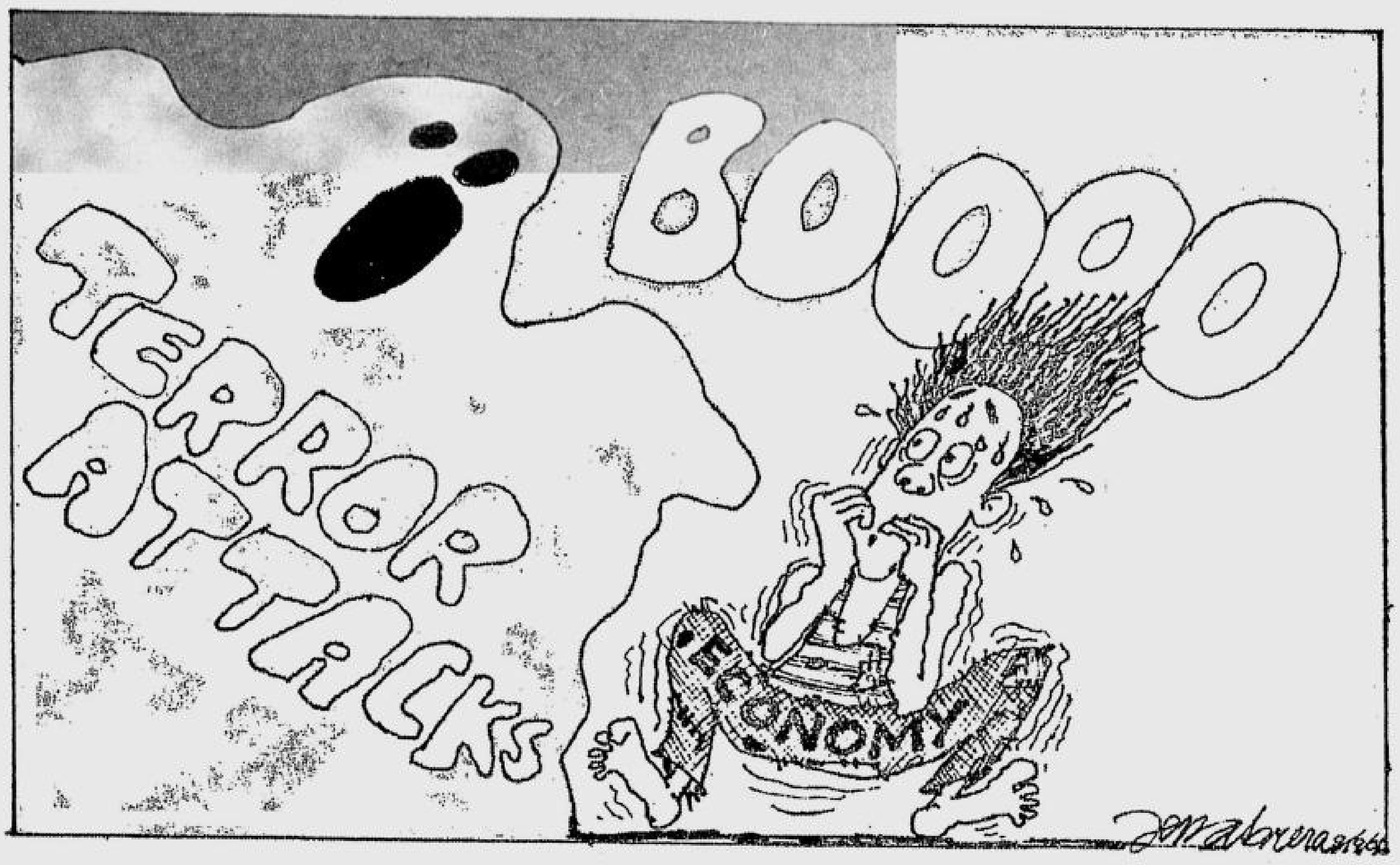
An anti-money laundering law will make it easier for authorities to look into bank accounts of people suspected of accumulating wealth from illegal sources. But the measure, which was first introduced in July 1998, was simply forgotten after it was brought to the floor for deliberation in the face of strong resistance from the banking sector. But with FATF sanctions looming, the banks seem to have dropped their opposition. Now it is mainly the politicians who are blocking the enactment of the law.

Their opposition is anchored on two things: first, resistance to perceived "dictation" from a foreign entity; second, fear that the administration might use the law to go after its political enemies.

The first looks suspiciously like inferiority complex disguised as national pride. Russia recently passed an anti-money laundering law without protesting that its sovereignty was being diminished.

The second concern can be easily cured by the legislators themselves. The bill drafted by the administration already contains safeguards against abuse. For instance, it would impose heavy penalties on unlawful disclosure of banking transactions and would prohibit the use of information gathered in investigations of money laundering cases to prosecute tax cases. Also no investigation can be conducted without clearance from the Monetary Board as well as the Anti-Money Laundering Board to be created under the law. If these are not enough, nothing prevents lawmakers from introducing other safeguards against abuse for political purposes.

The Philippine economy, which is still reeling from the Asian contagion of the late 1990s and is now feeling the effects of the recession in some if its principal trading partners, is hardly in a condition to absorb a crippling slowdown in international financial transactions. The pressure to bear down hard on money laundering can only increase after the terrorist attacks in the United States. Congress can choose to ignore the pressure and delay passage of the anti-money laundering bill at the cost of aggravating an already bad economic situation.



Bush caught between the Devil and the deep blue sea

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHY are they going after Osama bin Laden, the terrorist Americans love to hate, when he is not the originator of the idea of crashing a hijacked jetliner into an American landmark? The seeds of that plot were planted in the heads of terrorists by a well-known American, writer Tom Clancy, author of numerous techno-thrillers.

Using fuel-fat jetliners as weapons of destruction was first used by Clancy in his novel, "Executive Orders." In that book, terrorists crashed a hijacked plane into the Capitol, killing the President of the United States and other high officials, except the Vice President. That's how Jack Ryan (he's the Harrison Ford character in the movie "Patriot Games") became President. He was late for the oath-taking at the Capitol and so wasn't there when the jetliner crashed into it. Bin Laden merely translated Clancy's idea into reality.

Come to think of it, tardiness, a common vice of Filipinos, is not such a bad habit after all. All those who escaped the World Trade Center tragedy were tardy for work. The planes struck before 9 a.m. At that time, most of the top executives with offices in the WTC were still out in the golf courses. That is why few board chairmen and presidents were killed in the collapse of the twin terrors. That is why only 18 Filipinos were reported missing. Most of those killed were the early birds. Only they didn't catch the worms but the handiwork of that worm Bin Laden.

* * *

US President George W. Bush is caught between the Devil and the deep blue sea. He has a very difficult choice to make: War or no war?

War is the first impulse. The American people expect it. They want revenge. America's allies expect it. The world expects it. The attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center are a humiliating experience for mighty America, the only superpower left in the world. A band of terrorists cannot do this to America and get away with it. They should be taught that quick punishment is sure to follow. This is the policy that has enabled Israel to survive the siege by its Palestinian and Arab enemies. Attack a kibbutz or bomb a café and quick retaliation is sure to follow.

For the US not to attack the presumed plotters of the attacks on her landmarks and symbols would expose her as a toothless superpower, a paper tiger. It would be a loss of face and of prestige. So Bush has no choice but to wage war The US has to attack.

But attack whom, where? The objective is Bin Laden of course. But where is he? Somewhere in Afghanistan. Where is that somewhere? Afghanistan is a big place. Bin Laden has surely left his safehouse and gone into hiding. The US must first find out where he is hiding before they can go get him. Aircraft carriers and jet fighters are useless if they don't know where he is. A terrorist like Bin Laden must have prepared his hideouts well.

The US is pressuring the Taliban through Pakistan to surrender Bin Laden to them. If the Taliban gives him up, then war can be averted. But that would be a hard thing to do for the Taliban chief, Mullah Mohammad Omar, who is very closely related to Bin Laden. Omar is married to Bin Laden's daughter who, in turn, is married to Omar's own daughter.

Besides, extraditing the terrorist to the US would anger many Islamic countries and other terrorist groups. How long do you think Omar's hold on Afghanistan will last?

But not surrendering Bin Laden will surely invite attack from the US and its allies. The US has to do it or it would be further humiliated. It would have to attack if no face-saving measure is found. Many innocent Afghans will die. Omar is also caught between the devil and the deep blue sea.

If the US decides to attack, will it bomb Kabul, the Afghanistan capital, and other cities—where Bin Laden surely will not be—to force Omar to surrender him? Will it land troops to look for Bin Laden? Will it occupy the whole of Afghanistan?

If the US wages war, it will most likely win in no time at all. Afghanistan looks like an ant to the American elephant. But looks are deceiving. It looked that way in Vietnam in the beginning but the US lost that war. And the Soviet Union, another superpower lost its own war in Afghanistan itself, against the very same guerillas who will face the US forces. A guerilla war—and that is what the Afghans will surely wage—is tilted against an invading force.

Besides, Bush will have to fight another war at home. The American people may all be gung-ho today, but when the body bags start coming home, when the sons and husbands and fathers become casualties in another faraway land, will the American be still as gung-ho?

Of course, there is the lesson of Pearl Harbor. Before the Day of Infamy, Americans were sharply divided on joining the war. That's their war, let's not get involved in it, was the reasoning. But the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor united the American people against the Axis powers and worked and fought mightily to defeat them.

But there is also the lesson of Vietnam. The US armed forces lost that battle not only in the battlefields of Vietnam but also in the streets at home. When the Americans got tired of the war, refused to send more of their children to die in a foreign country, the US policymakers were forced to call the fighting men home. What happened then can happen now. Can the US afford to lose, or retreat, from another war and still retain its prestige?

That is the dilemma President Bush is facing. That is what is keeping him sleepless at night.

But he is right, terrorism has to be stopped. Today the Pentagon and the WTC, tomorrow the White House and the Capitol. Today America, tomorrow the world. Today hijacked airliners, tomorrow nuclear bombs.

What should Bush do?

The most dangerous weapon of all

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE WONDER of it for most people is how a group of people armed only with knives was able to hold the crew and passengers of four commercial planes hostage to their murderous designs. The knives, moreover, supplied by the airplanes themselves—they were steak knives, according to one account. It does make George Bush's missile shield, bought not just at the cost of billions of dollars of taxpayers' money but at the greater cost of the world's enmity, representing as it did a unilateral American decision to scrap several nuclear protocols, look like an expensive but useless toy. Or a monumental exercise in looking the wrong way.

But it's not really so strange from a psychological point of view. "*Naunahan*" is the very expressive Filipino word for it. People were shocked to immobility. As a passenger of the fourth plane which crashed into a woods in Pennsylvania told his wife on his cell phone, the hijackers had already knifed a passenger. He did not say whether the hijackers had knifed the passenger to death, but whether so or not, the spectacle of blood spurting all over a place where one least expects to see it would have frozen people in their seats. Only the intrepid would have had the wits to do something about it. The caller was one such person, as were a couple of others. They were the ones who fought off the hijackers, which brought the plane down to Pennsylvania instead of the White House. But they are the exceptions rather than the rule, as the statistics of three out of four planes reaching their targets show.

No, the fact that several groups of men were able to hijack four airplanes armed only with knives is not the one thing I find mind-boggling about all this. People who have murder in their eyes can keep a whole army at bay. What I find almost unbelievable about this is that all the men who carried it out were not just ready to die, they were resolved to die. They were not just prepared to become a casualty of war if fate should have it, they were determined to die by their own hand and bring others to share the same fate.

The first thing I thought of when I saw the footage of the two Boeings crashing through the towers of the World Trade Center was that there was no way the hijackers could have bailed out while sending the planes straight to their targets. The deadly precision suggested a suicide mission, by pilots who aimed their planes at the towers and drove unswervingly toward them. That was the only way they could have hit them, in both cases almost cutting the structures in half. Quite apart from the pilots, the mission required as well other people who would help carry out the hijacking and who would wait, while busily keeping the passengers at bay, for certain death.

How explain people like those?

Doubtless, religious fanaticism has something to do with it. The world has not lacked for madmen who make human bombs of themselves, armed with the conviction that heaven has a special place for people like them. I'm glad Ambeth Ocampo wrote last week of the Japanese pilots who bombed Pearl Harbor to remind us of the murderous power of religious fanaticism—emperor-worship is as much a religion as Christianity or Islam—to drive people to do things like this. One pilot wrote his family to tell them how deeply honored he was to have been chosen to die for his country. We take it this was a genuine expression of gratitude and not just a lot of whistling in the dark. It's this unbelievable mixture of rationality and irrationality, purposefulness and insanity, that makes it completely surreal. Truly, there's method in madness.

But the World Trade Center attack adds whole new dimensions to it. The pilots who attacked Pearl Harbor at least went on a suicide mission in the sense that the odds against their coming back were very small. The groups that carried out the hijackings went on a suicide mission in the sense that the odds of their coming back were nil. They wanted to die.

What makes not just one or two people but a whole group of people want to do that? What makes a whole group of people want to do that not just on a sudden impulse but over a long period of time? Indeed, what makes people want to do that not just while fattening themselves for the slaughter—the Japanese pilots who were to go on the Pearl Harbor mission were treated like gods and not made to work—but while quite purposefully educating themselves in such things as learning how to fly a commercial plane? You would think the odds would favor some members of the squad experiencing a change of heart and opting for a change of life.

Maybe religious fanaticism is a powerful motivator. But there is another motivator that is just as powerful, if not more so. Ages ago, I read that the Black September Movement, the Palestinian group responsible for some of the most vicious terrorist attacks around the globe, recruited one special type of people. These were people who lost their spouses and children in attacks on their own homeland, who wept copiously for the loss of their loved ones until their tears ran dry. Until their hearts could not longer harbor love—or pity.

These were people who could be counted upon to think nothing of themselves when they went on missions to bomb buildings or public places or assassinate the enemy. These were people who could be counted upon to think nothing of the smiling faces of children that would soon be turned into blank and bloodied masks. These were people who could be counted upon to pass the days and the months and the years zealously reading all sorts of books and learning all sorts of skills with the single-minded purpose of wreaking mayhem upon the world.

If this is so, then truly George Bush is looking in the wrong direction with his anti-missile shield. The most dangerous weapon on earth is not an inter-continental ballistic missile waiting to be unleashed by a malicious hand.

It is ordinary people with nothing to lose.

Faulty comparisons

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IT does not really wash to compare the attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon with historical cases of mass destruction and carnage such as the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, the carpet bombings on Tokyo and Dresden in World War II, and the bombings on North Vietnam and Cambodia during the Indo-China wars.

These attacks are cited by ideologues who, while expressing abhorrence at the terrorist attacks at the trade center and the Pentagon, rake up the carnage inflicted in many wars by a nation that is passionately scorned for its "arrogance of power."

Dredging up old scores leads to interminable blame-laying that blurs the vicious aspects of this new war directed at people—not against nations. Some deplore the use of the word "terrorist" to label shadowy, treacherous and stateless groups moving across national frontiers to attack population centers and slaughter people—not soldiers—to express anger over foreign policies they don't like. What then do we call them—religious warriors? nationalist heroes?

Wars kill people—both civilians and combatants—but this new war is different. It is a sneak attack, is undeclared and is targeting civilians. That is what makes it different from Hiroshima, Dresden, Vietnam, etc. But even Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Dresden were retaliation of previous attacks. Those with ideological blinders choose their line-up of perpetrators of war atrocities. They don't cite, for example, Pearl Harbor, the bombing of Britain and the Nazi siege of Stalingrad because the perpetrators are not their favorite ideological bashing beast. Pearl Harbor begot Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Battle of Britain begot the bombing of Dresden and Hamburg. The siege of Stalingrad begot the battle of Berlin.

If Hiroshima is condemnable, so is Pearl Harbor; if the Dresden bombing is condemnable, so is the Nazi blitz on London.

The Crusades, the Holy War of Christendom on "infidels," provoked a religious war with the invasion of Islamic lands by European knights. This war resulted in unspeakable cruelty and slaughter by both sides. If we trace the roots of conflict in the Middle East, we have to go deeper than the creation of the Jewish state after World War II. We have to go deeper to the Balfour Declaration in World War I, and even earlier to the wars that ravaged Asia minor, among Asiatic empires, long before the Europeans and the Americans set foot in that cradle of ancient civilization.

Suicide bombings on civilian targets are not going to change foreign policy on the Middle East, any more than raking up old scores, or blaming selected ideological targets for atrocities can stop terrorist attacks. True, Pearl Harbor was a sneak attack. And so was the attack at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. But the bombing of Pearl Harbor was an act of war by a country, which believed it was being economically strangled by the Western powers and its back driven to the wall. Its targets were naval and military installations and military personnel. Japan attacked the center of US naval power in the Pacific, crippling that power and allowing Japan to invade Southeast Asia unimpeded.

In the aftermath of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon suicide bombing, the most powerful nation on earth cannot deploy its military power—its vast arsenal of high-tech weaponry and its armies—to fight opposing armies on battlefields. Such a deployment is a waste of resources and invites war with countries or governments suspected of aiding or giving sanctuary to phantom enemies. Assuming Osama bin Laden is killed, the network he has built could have spread out its cells and could not be eradicated by massive deployment of force, intensifying the cycle of killing civilians caught in retaliatory bombings or military invasion of terrorist host countries.

What is producing results after the bombings is that international intelligence and police criminal investigation services have been spurred to cooperation not seen since the Cold War. The Interpol, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Service, the German, French and British intelligence services, not to mention the Israeli intelligence services, have all pooled their facilities to hunt down the terrorists and to collect evidence on those involved in the cross-national conspiracy.

During World War II and the Cold War, the war of spies was as important as bombings, naval battles and battles on land. It was a war between allied spies and the spies of the totalitarian alliance, and later of the communist regimes. The international intelligence community has realigned and has formed a coalition to track down those responsible for the bombings and what is more important to prevent new attacks on defenseless people—who include even ideologues. The amazing speed of the identification of suspects, of the collection of evidence and of tracing people linked to the conspiracy across national borders reflects the salience of the intelligence war.

It is convenient to blame "massive intelligence failure" for the success of the bombings. After World War II, there have been several books published about careless assessment of intelligence reports indicating the imminence of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The US at the time was complacent over its power. After the Gulf War, the US had a high level of alertness on biological warfare. Security seminars emphasized this menace, but low-tech terror bombings, seizing civilian airliners and suicide bombing civilian targets, was not a recognizable threat.

We also often forget that open societies are trusting societies. Unless they are at war, their level of alertness is low. They tend to be overly complacent. Terrorists take advantage of this openness and the environment of trust to launch sneak attacks. Ideologues are hardly the first victims.

Context

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EVERYBODY said we would wake up to a "new and different world" in the wake of the Sept. 11 tragedy. One strong indication of that is that David Letterman, appearing on his "Late Show" for the first time since the disasters at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, could barely summon his sense of humor in front of the live and TV audience.

Instead, he opened with a soliloquy, apologizing in advance for having to say what so many others had already said before him, "much more eloquently," but that it was the only way he could proceed with the show. He himself felt it still wasn't right to do the show, he said, but he was responding to New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani's appeal for New Yorkers to go about their normal business.

When comics can hardly bring themselves to laugh, or to share laughter with their audience, then we can conclude the psychic wounds run deeper than would be immediately obvious.

But I dare not even try to measure the depths of grief and loss of Yem Atienza Aaron, a classmate in high school, who in an e-mail to friends and family, confesses that "it's very difficult to hold up hope" for her husband Jack knowing what she knows about the WTC tragedy. "I learned that no one in the 91st floor and up has been heard from. I learned that the plane entered the north side and that Jack's office is on the West side. From other e-mails from other Marsh (the firm where her husband works) relatives, I've read that the plane hit directly into Marsh floors."

Her son Tim joined her in coming to Manhattan, passing out flyers about his Dad, being briefed by a counselor on helpful answers to questions he'll doubtless be receiving in school, and even allowing his inner cheek to be swabbed for possible DNA matching. Things not every young man may have the emotional stamina to do, but as Yem put it: "I want him to grow up and remember that he tried to help find his Dad." Please add to your prayers a special mention for Yem and Tim and Jack.

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ONE of the most provocative images in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 tragedy was that of young Palestinians cheering and celebrating allegedly upon hearing news of the horror that visited Manhattan and the Pentagon.

Nigel Parry, a writer on Mideast affairs who has lived for some time in the West Bank, offers to place this disturbing scene in context.

First, he said, "there are three million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and West Bank including Jerusalem, one million Palestinians living inside the borders of Israel, and another four million Palestinian refugees living elsewhere in the world, including the United States. The footage in question depicted between 20 and 40 individuals."

Parry notes that the Palestinians in the footage were mostly children, who behaved much as they did before "when foreign journalists turn up in their towns, crowding and smiling at the camera and giving the victory sign that has been a symbol of Palestinian steadfastness under Israeli military occupation."

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PALESTINIAN anger at the US, where genuine, say Parry, could also be explained in the context of the present state of siege in the West Bank, where the Israeli army conducts nightly bombing raids on residential communities, with the use of American weaponry. Says Parry: "the US media broadcast the footage without explaining any of the above, something that is neither new nor—any longer—acceptable in light of the anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab and the anti-Muslim sentiment it creates. No organization of journalists who seek to bring their viewers an accurate representation of reality should be broadcasting contextless, unrepresentative images that encourage racism against nationalities and their associated ethnic groups.

"As those of us who live in the US are currently feeling justifiable anger at the perpetrators...let us not misdirect it at an entire people who continue to suffer through one of the darkest periods of their already bleak history. The Palestinian people, who sit glued to their television sets in disturbed silence like the rest of the world, are actually better placed than most to understand what those of us living in America currently feel and are finding it hard to express." In a postscript, Parry notes that soon after, "a million Palestinian schoolchildren observed a minute of silence for the victims of the tragedy."

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LIKE Palestinians, the people of Afghanistan are also feeling the "heat" of American and perhaps international anger in the wake of the Sept. 11 atrocities.

Making the rounds of e-mail groups is a plea for understanding and, again, context, from an Afghan-born academic residing in the US, writing "as one who hates the Taliban and Osama bin Laden."

But, he stresses, "the Taliban and Bin Laden are not Afghanistan. They're not even the government of Afghanistan. The Taliban are a cult of ignorant psychotics who captured Afghanistan in 1997 and have been holding the country in bondage ever since. Bin Laden is a political criminal with a master plan."

What would a war with Afghanistan as a staging ground accomplish? Says the Afghan writer: "We come now to the question of bombing Afghanistan back to the Stone Age. Trouble with that scheme is, it's already been done. The Soviets took care of it. Make the Afghans suffer? They're already suffering. Level their houses? Done. Turn their schools into piles of rubble? Done. Eradicate their hospitals? Done. Destroy their infrastructure? There is no infrastructure. Cut them off from medicine and health care? Too late. Someone already did all that.

"New bombs would only land in the rubble of earlier bombs...flying over Kabul and dropping bombs wouldn't really be a strike against the criminals who did this horrific thing. Actually it would be making common cause with the Taliban—by raping once again the people they've been raping all this time."

US strikes on Afghanistan could light regional tinder-box

NEWS ANALYSIS

Giles Hewitt

NEW DELHI—A US military strike on Afghanistan carries the tangible risk of an extended conflict in a region already riven by bilateral tensions and seemingly incompatible strategic and political agendas, analysts say.

A roundup of Afghanistan's immediate neighbors hardly reads like a suitable list of candidates for a US-led alliance—with India, Pakistan, China, Russia, Iran and the Central Asian republics of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Relations between most of these countries are, at best, tainted by mutual suspicion, or in the case of India and Pakistan by outright hostility.

While they have voiced general support for the US campaign for a global war on terrorism, it has often been accompanied by conditions and caveats, given the continued uncertainty over the exact nature of any US retaliatory strike against Osama bin Laden and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

The strategic balance in the region is complex and far from stable and analysts say the main danger lies in US action escalating into a protracted conflict that one or more states might see as posing a threat to their sovereign interests.

The most acceptable scenario for most governments would be limited surgical strikes by US forces on terrorist bases in Afghanistan, with neighboring countries providing intelligence and logistical support.

Even that carries a significant element of risk, with the Taliban warning at the weekend that any country helping the United States would suffer the consequences.

Of the regional states, only Pakistan actually recognizes the Taliban, but it certainly does not follow that the others would be happy to see the United States topple the regime and install another of its choosing.

China is especially wary of any attempt by the United States to establish a dominant position in Central Asia.

"If US soldiers are sent, the Taliban toppled and a pro-American regime fostered, then there will be a conflict of interest not only between the US and China, but the US and Russia and the US and Iraq," said Lau Siu-kai, a political scientist at City University in Hong Kong.

"The danger for China is that the US becomes more involved in South Asia and there will be more US troops closer to its borders," added Jean-Pierre Cabestan, director of the Hong Kong-based French Center for Research on Contemporary China.

China bristled at the lack of UN approval for NATO's intervention into Yugoslavia in 1999, viewing it as intervention in another country's internal affairs and a possible precedent for Western action in Tibet or Xinjiang, where separatism abounds.

Bakhodir Musayev, a political analyst in Uzbekistan, said a drawn-out conflict in Afghanistan would force up military budgets in the Central Asian republics—a move that could end up fostering terrorism.

"Budgetary shifts would have significant economic consequences for the poor rural regions which are already considered to be a breeding ground for Islamic extremists," Musayez said.

Russia is distinctly reluctant to be drawn into an active role in an eventual conflict, although it could prevail on its client state Tajikistan to make bases available for US personnel.

The vice chair of the State Duma defense committee Alexei Arbatov said Russian involvement was "not ruled out," and added that if Moscow did take part, it would demand "the role of a fully fledged participant whose opinion is as important...as that of the US."

The most obvious flashpoint, however, is South Asia, where Indo-Pakistan relations remain extremely tense, especially over the issue of Kashmir, where Delhi accuses Islamabad of fomenting a long-running Muslim insurgency.

According to Stephen Cohen, head of the India Project at the Brookings Institute in the United States, the big issue is whether Washington, in seeking to pressure Pakistan into an anti-Taliban alliance, would shift its policy on Kashmir away from a "neutral" position to one that tilts towards India.

"There is some danger then that India might feel it had the backing of the United States and move against Pakistan. With nuclear weapons in the neighborhood, this scenario becomes very frightening very quickly," Cohen said.

Another problem facing the region would be a massive increase in the influx of Afghan refugees in the event of a drawn-out conflict.

Iran announced Saturday it was closing its 900-kilometer (560-mile) border with Afghanistan as a pre-emptive measure.

"Whatever happens, we are determined to defend our territory and we will not allow any infringement of the borders of Iran," said Hossein Zare-Sefat, deputy governor general of Iran's Khorassan province, which borders Afghanistan.

Indian strategic analyst Brahma Chellaney argued the chances of US action escalating into a wider conflict were slim.

"If the struggle against terrorism slips into regional conflict, it would be completely counterproductive to US strategy," Chellaney said.

"I think Washington will do everything to ensure that everyone stays firmly on track." *AFP*

Dealing with terrorism

COMMENTARY

Rafael M. Alunan III

THE FOUR hijacked aircraft that brought down the World Trade Center, damaged the Pentagon and crashed in Pennsylvania seemed like a variation of "Operation Bojinka." "Bojinka," a Yugoslav term for "explosion," was Ramzi Youseff's terror plan in 1995 after he bombed the World Trade Center in 1993, to blow up in mid-air eleven US wide-bodied passenger aircraft plying the Asia-Pacific route, and crash an airplane at the CIA's headquarters in Langley, Virginia. Youseff's plot was aborted when an accidental fire in his apartment led to the discovery of the plan in his computer, along with bomb-making paraphernalia and other incriminating evidence.

Youseff fled to Islamabad where he sought refuge in a safehouse allegedly funded by Osama bin Laden. He was planning, at the time, to kidnap the Philippine Ambassador to Pakistan who was holding office a block away and force the release of his accomplice, Abdul Hakeem Murad, from police detention. A draft letter addressed to President Fidel Ramos was confiscated from his person at the time of his arrest, threatening reprisals against Philippine installations worldwide if Murad was not freed.

Murad had disclosed to police that he had been trained as a pilot in the US and his mission was to destroy the CIA. Another accomplice, Wali Khan, whom Bin Laden knew and praised as a good youth, had escaped from the PNP's custody but was captured later in Malaysia. Youseff, Murad and Khan were separately extradited to the United States where they stood trial for the bombing of the World Trade Center, "Bojinka," and the assassination plots against Pope John Paul II and President Clinton whilst in the Philippines. They were found guilty and are now behind bars.

This sordid episode led President Ramos to invite various nations from around the world to an anti-terrorist conference in the Philippines. The task of personally delivering the invitations and organizing this first-ever event in the country fell on my lap by virtue of my position then as interior secretary and chair of the National Action Committee on Anti-Hijacking and Terrorism. My mission led me to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Acting Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel and Ambassador Philip Wilcox of the United States. The need for an international coalition against terrorism was in everyone's consciousness.

It was in these trips that Bin Laden's terrorist activities were pieced together; for example, his funding of rebel groups like the Abu Sayaff and the MILF, whose members had fought with him in Afghanistan, through his brother-in-law, Jamaal Khalifa. Khalifa headed the International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO) in Manila that funded missionaries and mercenaries alike, and was himself a fugitive wanted in Jordan for bombing a movie theater in Amman.

President Mubarak tagged him as the mastermind behind the assassination attempt on his life in the Sudan. I learned from Egyptian and Israeli intelligence of his Al-Qaeeda ("the Base") organization, composed mainly of Afghan veterans and linked to various terrorist organizations throughout the Muslim world; and his involvement in other high-profile terrorist attacks against US military targets. Prime Minister Bhutto claimed she was a target for assassination by Youseff, but was aborted when the bomb he planned to use detonated prematurely.

Intelligence experts from 19 Islamic and Judeo-Christian nations, eventually, came to Baguio in 1996 to examine the growing threat of transnational terrorism and the growing linkages to organized crime, such as drug trafficking and the smuggling of arms from huge weapons caches in Vietnam and Afghanistan. Within months, President Mubarak followed through with an anti-terrorism conference of his own that was held in Sharm-el-Sheik. In the wake of the New York and Washington, D.C. kamikaze attacks, he resumed his call for an international alliance to combat terrorism echoing the urgency of America's position on the matter.

Last week's unprecedented carnage may have been directed at America, but the reality is that the international community took the blows on the chin. People of various nationalities perished in the World Trade Center. And fears of more strikes in various vicious and creative forms anytime, anywhere, as only Tom Clancy can imagine, are beginning to take root especially in the minds of our young. The damage to the capital markets, travel and tourism, the insurance industry and the retail trade will deeply impact on the world's economy. One thing is sure—weak economies like the Philippines are highly vulnerable to the altering states of the global markets.

The attacks elevated to center stage the face of 21st century violence—guerrilla warfare on a global scale. How this will pan out and rearrange geo-political relations remains to be seen. New but fragile coalitions against terrorism will emerge but could quickly unravel when civilizations clash over cultural differences, moral perspectives and political dilemmas.

The Philippines must stand shoulder to shoulder with the rest of humanity to rain its scorn on terrorism. Its soil is drenched with the blood of many innocent victims from Luzon to Mindanao: church and moviegoers, commuters, shoppers and rural folks, unsuspecting that death and destruction were hovering over them. There is no middle ground, or fence sitting, in this case. It is the moral thing to do. And having hosted the first-ever international conference against terrorism logically places the Philippines on the side of a growing American-led international alliance. How it can be useful, given its meager resources, is the point for examination.

The fields in which the Philippines can meaningfully participate are intelligence cooperation, mutual legal assistance, and the pursuit of its peace and development agenda in its own home turf. Counter-terrorism, pretty much like counter-insurgency, will depend largely on good intelligence, successful law enforcement, and just societies to detect, deter and defeat man's inhumanity to man.

As in counter-insurgency, it essentially has two facets: one, suppress the armed threat; and two, remove the root causes of the conflict. The use of force must, however, be confined to the country where a clear and present danger exists. Sending uniformed personnel abroad should primarily be confined to help evacuate our overseas workers in highly threatened areas where widespread hostilities are anticipated, or assist in humanitarian causes like rescue-relief and refugee management.

The use by the United States of its former bases within the limits of the Constitution, like refueling, food re-supply, and repairs and maintenance that the Philippines could competently undertake for them on a pass-through basis, should not be feared nor prevented. With modern precision technology, counter-strikes will likely see the utilization of special operations forces that, by the nature of their missions requiring stealth, agility and speed, have no use for expensive permanent basing.

America's use of conventional forces to root out the terrorists, their support bases and networks, is unwise, unless rogue states figure in the equation. Even then, the evolution of America's armed forces has grown by leaps and bounds rendering the use of its former bases built for 20th century warfare impractical. Finally, the ethics of counter-terrorism necessitates the strict adherence to rules and procedures designed to keep the moral high ground. America's anger is righteous and is shared by decent people everywhere. But it must take every precaution to stay its hand and shake off temptations to pander to an enraged public's blood lust. Even if it will take a little more time, precision is better than the indiscriminate use of force to render justice within the limits of international and moral law. Extensive collateral damage and triggering the law of unintended consequences must be avoided at all costs.

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GMA showing subservience to US

US President George W. Bush is mustering all the US military might for a war against what the US government considers as terrorist countries wholly or partly responsible for last Tuesday's attacks. And President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is a very much willing puppet ready to aid her US master.

Since Tuesday, TV programs, newspapers and other media have been flashing images and stories that made us mourn and condemn "terrorism." At the same time, Bush has been declaring war against "international terrorism" with the government of the Republic of the Philippines as one of Bush's most reliable allies.

We want President Macapagal to know that she does not have all of our people's consent. Her administration is even wrong when it invoked the US-RP Mutual Defense Treaty, since automatic retaliation is not in any provision of the agreement. Several members of the academe and even of her administration have already questioned the constitutionality of the President's planned actions.

But beyond constitutionality, participating in another's country's war that involves aggression on other countries is plain wrong. The President is only showing extreme subservience to the United States by declaring an all-out support for the United States; by stating that the Philippines will do whatever the US government thinks we can do.

We are not willing puppets like her. We do not want to take part in a war that will devastate more lives and nations. We cannot tolerate the use of Philippine ports as launching pads for US troops; and we cannot allow the government to send off Filipinos to directly engage in US military aggression. We strongly oppose any kind of participation of the Philippines in a war against other sovereign nations.—**APOLINARIO ALVAREZ, secretary-general, ANAKBAYAN, 1316 San Perfecto St., Sampaloc, Manila**

Enough of PMA language quirks

I THANK PMAer Rosalino Alquiza for his enlightening rejoinder (PDI, 9/13/ 01) to the letter of retired General Mison et al. There is, after all, one of PMA Class '55 who knows when and where to use internal terminology, including the boundaries of PMA norms of behavior within the confines of PMA in Baguio. Unfortunately, Mison and his kind with their unbelievable arrogance continue to presume that the territory of PMA includes Congress, and all of the Philippine archipelago, and therefore, all Filipinos ought to understand and abide by their sub-culture. "Under oath" is a universal legal expression understood even by the unschooled, and is used in our courts. However, "All right, sir?" belongs to the barracks. General Reyes did a service to our system when he answered, "Your Honor, I am under oath." Had General Reyes answered "All right," who would have understood the relevance? And the good general knew there would have been two fools, not just one.

Don't we have enough "characters" in the Senate who do not know the parlance of that no longer so august hall? Ah, there oughtta be a law.—**NADJA S. SABERON, 2135 M.H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila**

Moratorium on congressional probes

THERE should be a moratorium on investigations conducted by the Senate and the House of Representatives "in aid of legislation." The primary duty of our legislators is to enact laws and not to investigate people for alleged crimes.

It would be interesting to know the batting average of the "investigations in aid of legislation" conducted since the country's independence was restored in 1946. Percentage-wise, how many were completed, and how many resulted in recommendations for prosecution or non-prosecution by the courts or quasi-judicial bodies?

Senators and representatives, in many cases, are totally ignorant of the proper manner of conducting probes. They bully, browbeat, frighten and intimidate witnesses who are invited to give testimony during hearings. Many resort to grandstanding and repeat questions ad nauseam to the discomfiture of the witnesses, and the public. Without waiting for a witness to complete an answer to a question, they interrupt, depriving the witness of the opportunity to be understood.

There are lawmakers though, who conduct themselves admirably in these hearings. Unfortunately, they are a rarity.

Some legislators cannot be understood or their difficulty with the English language is very evident. One cannot make heads or tails of what they are saying.

A moratorium on "investigations in aid of legislation" in both houses of Congress will spare the public the antics of undesirable legislators.—**APOLONIO G. RAMOS, 42 Mindanao St., Marikina City**

Not rubber but latex condoms

THE DOCTOR cited C. Michael Roland, editor of the Rubber Chemistry and Technology Naval Research in Washington, D.C. For her information, the information of C.M. Roland (is he a doctor?) is about rubber condoms. This was in 1972. We're now in the 21st century—we now have latex condoms!

Further, the C.M. Roland information was the one Pro-Life advocates have been citing years ago up to the present, to try to prove their stand that condoms offer a false sense of security.

I suggest that the Doctor Aguirre conduct an up-to-date research on condoms/AIDS. Abstinence is okay, but what about to persons who cannot abstain, what can she offer?—**ANTHONY CRUZ, Quezon City Task Force on AIDS**

LETTERS

A time of deep conversion

WE are still reeling from the shock of the tragic and horrific events of Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001 in New York and Washington. Even though we are thousands of miles away here in the Philippines, we have been able to share in the tragedy through the constant coverage of the BBC and CNN. As the dimensions of the tragedy are still unfolding we wish to share some of our thoughts at the moment.

To the families, friends and associates of the thousands of innocent victims whose lives were so unjustly and savagely taken away, we say that we know that you are carrying a burden of grief that our words can in no way assuage. Yet, we want you to know that we are in solidarity with you in your grief and we pray to the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction (2 Cor 1:3-4) may be your consolation at this time. We pray that you will receive all the strength and support you will need to cope with this pain of loss.

To the firefighters, police, rescue workers, medical teams and all who have been working tirelessly (and who in many cases have given their lives) to save those who are still trapped, retrieve bodies, clear tons of debris, etc., we offer our profound gratitude and admiration and pray that God may reward you as only God can. May we never forget the work you have done.

To those who are responsible for this most inhuman and evil act of terror we say that you have diminished your own humanity, even as you have caused untold pain sad grief to thousands of human beings. Surely no cause, no matter how worthy, and certainly no religious cause, can be advanced through such methods.

To our brother and sister Muslims we say that we are all children of Abraham, our father in faith (see Hebrews 11) and friend of God (Isa 41:8; Holy Qur'an). We appeal to those, in the United States and elsewhere, who are taking out their anger and revenge against people of Arab descent, to cease such discrimination and scapegoating which will only fuel hatred and compromise your own humanity;

To President Bush, Secretary Powell and all those in government who bear the heavy burden of finding an appropriate response to this grave and savage attack on our nation, we say that we promise you the support of our prayers. We pray especially that you will be guided by the Spirit of God who says: "Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; because the day of their calamity is at hand, their doom comes swiftly (Deut 32:35; see Romans 12:19). May you have the courage to rise above the desire for retaliation and revenge and find a way to deal with this most serious threat to humanity that will not cause further rift in the human family.

We are especially uncomfortable with the fact that those who planned the Gulf War are the same who are now planning a new war—"America's New War" as the CNN banner headlines put it. While Iraq was indeed removed from Kuwait during that war, it was and still is, the innocent people of Iraq who are suffering the consequences of that war and the resulting sanctions against Iraq.

To all those who are now at war with each other around the world we say, stop the killing and destruction. We are especially saddened by the fact that because of this tragedy the world's eye has been diverted from the violence continuing and often escalating in Israel-Palestine. Responsible governments must look at the root causes of these conflicts and work toward bringing justice to those who have so long been aggrieved.

For ourselves, and for all human beings, we pray that God may remove the anger and hatred from our hearts so that we may begin to see painful truths that are too often hidden from ordinary citizens. Clearly the road to justice and peace is not through an escalation of violence. A time of catastrophe is also a time for deep reflection. It can also be a time of deep conversion.—**MARYKNOLL SISTERS Philippine Region, UP Post Office Box 235, 1104 Diliman, Quezon City**

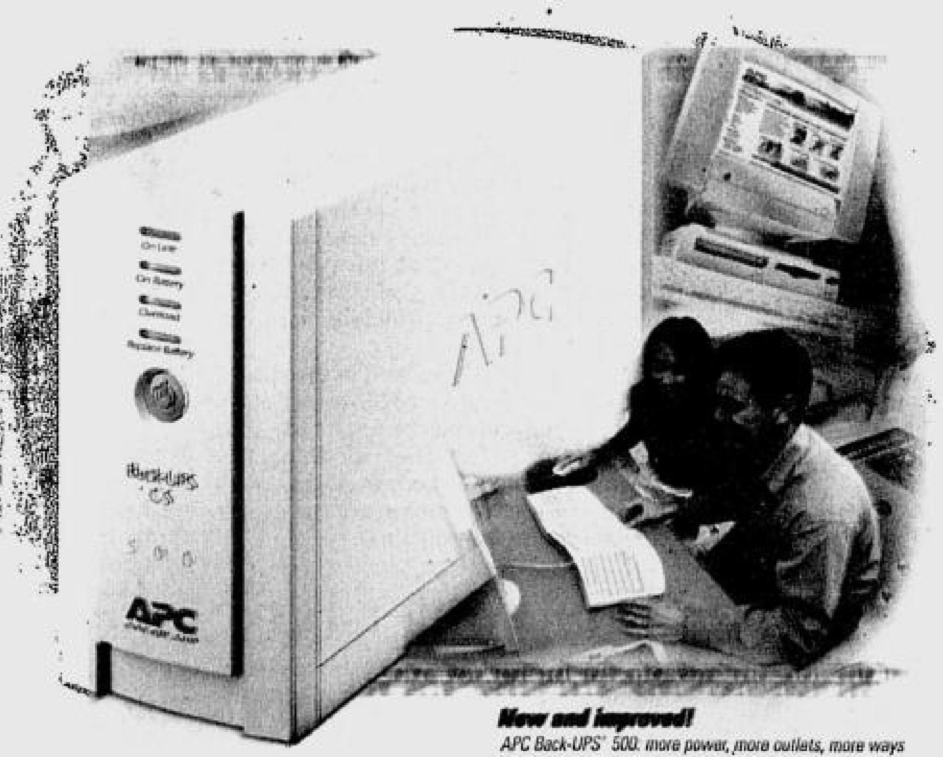
Why doesn't Saguisag defend Marcoses?

I'M still very disturbed as I write this. I just saw lawyer Rene Saguisag make a fool of himself on TV (something which he tends to do a lot lately) while being interviewed on ANC live.

Whining like an aggrieved matron, he berated and insulted the hapless interviewer, Ricky Carandang, because the latter had the temerity to interrupt him while he was answering. To his credit, Carandang remained calm and gentlemanly all throughout Saguisag's tirade, even while he was being accused of being a member of civil society and therefore biased against Saguisag's idol, former President Joseph Estrada.

Saguisag should stop being hypocritical and self-righteous. *Kumita na yang pa*-upright effect *niya*. If he really believes in the principle of "innocent until proven guilty," why didn't he defend Marcos when we were rallying against him? Didn't the same principle apply to him?

In fact, even now Saguisag can still come to the aid of Imelda Marcos and her children on the basis of the same principle. He should go for it. They deserve one another.—**NOEL TRINIDAD, 33 Firefly St., Valle Verde VI, Pasig City**



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Israel balks at US push to form terror coalition

NEWS ANALYSIS

Christian Chaise

JERUSALEM—Washington's push to forge an international coalition to fight terrorism has caused a sharp split between Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Israel's closest ally, the United States.

Sharon has warned he is unwilling to make any sacrifices to help the United States stitch together the coalition that would mean an easing of his campaign against the Palestinians, including military strikes.

He has rejected US pressure to reopen direct talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, an initiative which Washington believes could attract the maximum number of Arab nations to sign on to the nascent US-led coalition.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell has even mooted teaming up with Syria and Iran, both considered pro-terrorist states by Washington, so that a hoped-for broad coalition against terrorism does not seem to be targeting Islam.

Saudi-born dissident Islamist Osama bin Laden, being sheltered by the hard-line Islamic Taliban militia in Afghanistan, is Washington's prime suspect in last week's suicide attacks on New York and Washington.

But Sharon flatly ruled out taking part in any operation that involves Syria, which hosts nearly a dozen radical Palestinian groups largely opposed to any peace negotiations with the Jewish state.

Israel also considers Islamic Iran—whose supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei calls the Jewish state a "cancerous tumor" which must be destroyed—as its principal threat to survival.

Just as US President George W. Bush's father left Israel on the sidelines to win Arab participation in a coalition to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait in the Gulf War, the Jewish state looks again to be left out of the spotlight.

"That's like in the Gulf War," says Israeli analyst Mark Heller from the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv. "Exactly the same thing."

Israel provided only discreet intelligence help during the 1991 conflict.

Now the Bush administration has been pressing the hard-line Sharon to go ahead with talks with Arafat, which the premier has vowed will not go ahead without a prior 48 hours of "absolute calm"—meaning no anti-Israeli attacks.

The public announcement of Washington's request seems to be aimed at countering Sharon's bid to delegitimise Arafat through his comparison of the Palestinian leader with the suspected terrorist mastermind bin Laden.

A close Arafat advisor who asked not to be named told AFP: "The Americans understand that to build such a coalition, they cannot exclude the Palestinians and they cannot ignore the Palestinian question."

He said Bush's understanding of the need to include the Palestinians was a bit of "surprising wisdom."

Sharon on Sunday slightly backed off from his tough stance, saying a meeting between Arafat and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres could happen after 48 hours of calm, after earlier ruling out such talks.

He may have been keen not to appear to be snubbing the nation which gives Israel three billion dollars in aid every year, but few believe the talks have a chance because of the unlikelihood of two solid days without violence.

"It's a way for him to say no, to say 'yes but'—and the 'but' is the onus on Arafat," analyst Heller said.

And, indeed, Sharon has not softened his stance all that much.

"Israel will not make any concessions, and I emphasize any concessions, when it comes to its security," he told the Jerusalem Post. ***AFP***

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Gloria's reminder: Gov't men banned from casinos

By J. Javellana

ONLY foreign tourists and local residents with a net annual income of P50,000 are allowed to enter and play in casinos. Government officials and employees and members of the military and police, never.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had to reiterate a standing government directive prohibiting officials and employees of the bureaucracy and personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police from going to casinos.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo said the President issued Memorandum Circular No. 8 issued Aug. 28 following reports that "some government officials and employees, including members of the PNP and the AFP, have been seen in casinos."

"It is hereby reiterated that all government personnel concerned are prohibited from entering, staying and/or playing at gambling casinos," the President said in her memo.

She ordered all heads of departments, bureaus and offices, government-owned and controlled corporations, local governments, the PNP and AFP to "remind officials and employees under them regarding this prohibition and to impose the appropriate sanctions and penalties in case of violation thereof."

The President also ordered the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. which runs casinos to "strictly enforce" the ban on government personnel and bureaucrats.

The President said that under Presidential Decree No. 1067-B as amended by PD 1869, Pagcor's franchise to operate and maintain gambling clubs and casinos carried a condition on who should be qualified to play.

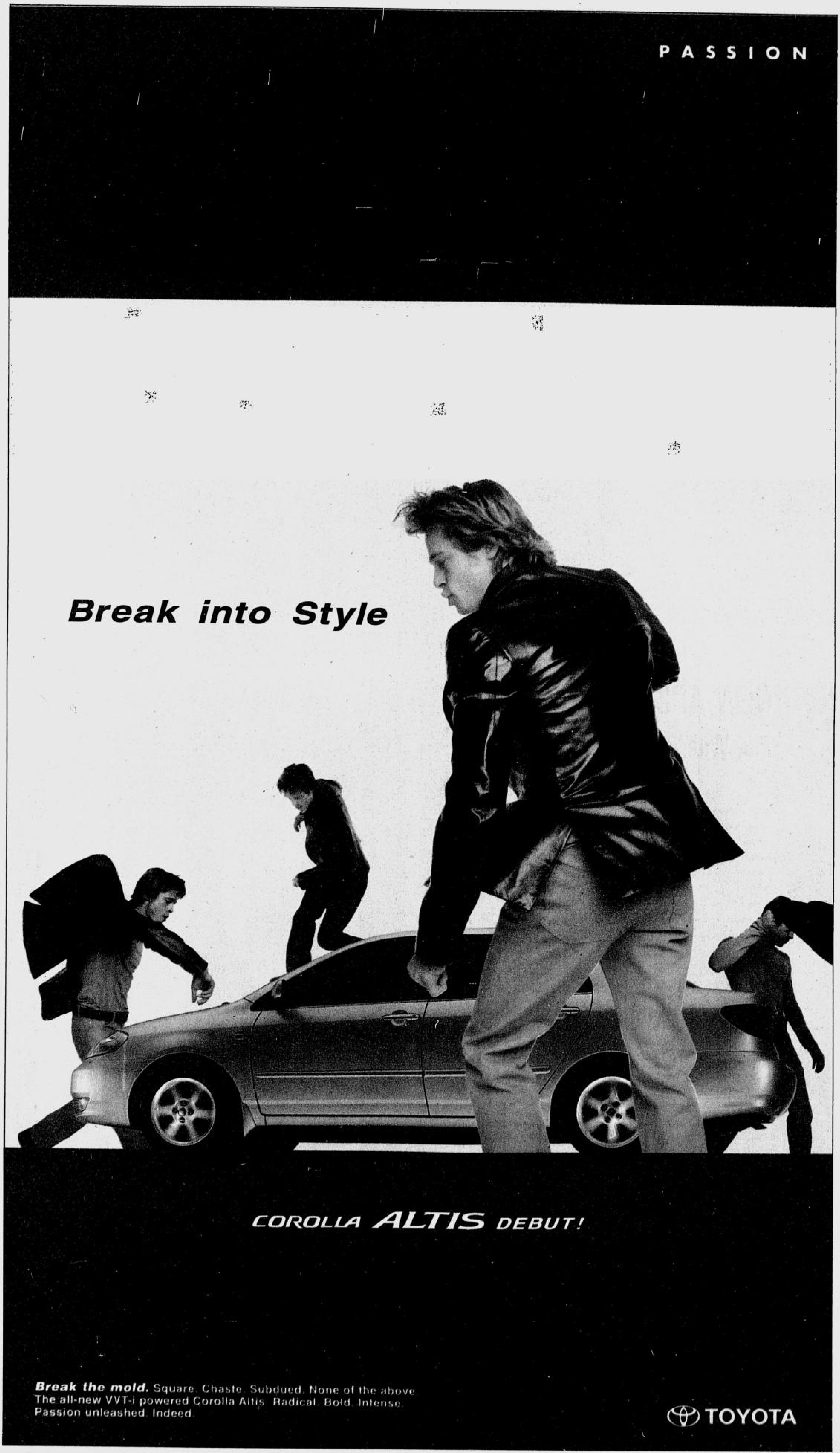
She said "tourists and/or foreigners who are not residents of the Philippines and residents with a net income for the previous year of at least P50,000, which fact should be certified to by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, shall be allowed to play at the gambling casinos."

She said the following persons are not allowed to stay and/or play at casinos:

- Government officials connected directly with the operation of government or any of its agencies except personnel employed by the casinos who may be allowed to stay in the premises.
- Members of the PNP and the AFP, including the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Persons under 21 years of age or students of any school, college or university in the Philippines.

While Pagcor still operates gambling casinos and lotteries, Ms Macapagal has officially shunned gambling-friendly policies. She has ordered the Pagcor not to operate jai alai despite a favorable ruling by the Supreme Court.

She has identified moral recovery as one of her principal values as President.



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The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Europe worries what US will decide to do

BRUSSELS, Belgium—Having pledged to back the United States in its war on terrorism, Europe is worrying about what kind of campaign Washington is readying and what the Europeans' role will be.

"We are in the same boat, but we fear what the captain of the boat will decide to do," said Dominique Moisi of the French Institute for International Relations.

Closer to the Arab world and with a larger Muslim population, Europeans worry that an "irrational" strike by the United States could trigger even more terror that would inevitably hit them as well.

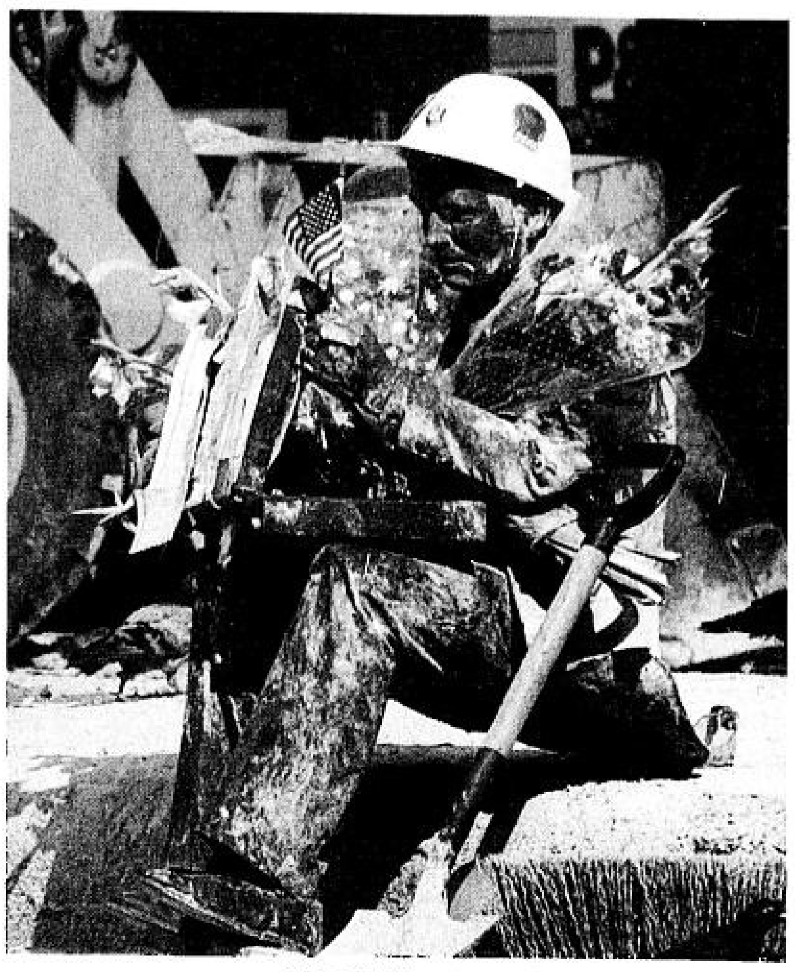
On a continent twice devastated by global conflicts in the 20th century, politicians are loathe to use the word "war." Europeans were shocked by the attacks in the United States but have little stomach for a new, major conflict.

"The sort of crusade that would create a 'clash of civilizations' war really makes Europe really nervous," Moisi said. "We can not afford that."

European Union leaders called an emergency summit for Friday to coordinate their actions and reaffirm their support for the United States—partly in the hope of gaining greater input into Washington's strategic plans.

"Our complete backing also means they will have to take our feelings and opinions into account," said Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency.

As US troops prepare for action, European leaders are seeking to calm nerves and tone down the rhetoric on a continent that still remembers the devastation of the last world war. *AP*



A BRONZE sculpture of a businessman and his briefcase sits amid heavy machinery and rubble of the destroyed World Trade Center in New York Sept. 15. What once was the center of the financial district is now a memorial for those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11 terror attacks. REUTERS

Passengers seen as key to foiling jet hijacks

WASHINGTON—Airline pilots want passengers to become a line of defense against future hijackings, ready to spring into action to attack anyone trying to take over an airplane.

The call to arms represents a complete turnaround from the policy that pilots, crews and passengers have been following for years: Cooperate with hijackers and take them where they want to go, thus ensuring the safety of the passengers and crew.

That policy is changing in the wake of the four terrorist hijackings last Tuesday, when the planes themselves became suicide weapons of destruction.

Those on board the ill-fated United Airlines Flight 93 apparently fought the terrorists who had commandeered the plane, resulting in the plane crashing near Pittsburgh rather than in Washington, DC.

The Air Line Pilots Association wants to tell all airline passengers that they can prevent hijackings.

"With no 911, no capacity to pull over, we have to utilize all the resources," said Capt. Steve Luckey, a retired pilot who chairs ALPA's national security committee. "Every passenger group has a tremendous capability."

Indeed, Luckey said the union was discussing a series of advertisements to let passengers know that they are needed to stop hijackings, similar to Smokey Bear's admonition that only you can prevent forest fires.

"Passengers are going to have to assume a lot more responsibility," Luckey said. "We're the people who need the help."

Others also are revisiting established procedures. *AP*

30 calls made from 2 flights

PHILADELPHIA—Passengers on two United Airlines flights hijacked in last week's terrorist attacks made 30 calls from on-board telephones, according to the company that provides the service.

Passengers on Flight 175, which crashed into the World Trade Center's south tower, made 10 calls after hijackers took control, according to officials at Airfone, the GTE-owned company that provides the service.

On Flight 93, which authorities suspect was headed for a key government facility in Washington, passengers made 20 calls before the plane plunged into a western Pennsylvania field.

It was unclear whether each of the calls was made by an individual passenger or some passengers made several calls. Other calls were made with cell phones, but the number of those calls was unclear.

"It makes us feel good that customers were able to contact their loved ones," said Bill Pallone, president of Airfone, which provided service on the flights.

Pallone said all the calls made from the planes' phones went through to their intended destinations, except for the one that was intercepted by an operator after a passenger's credit card failed to work.

That call was taken by GTE operator Lisa D. Jefferson, who had a 13-minute conversation with passenger Todd Beamer, Pallone said.

Jefferson immediately alerted her supervisors and the FBI to what was happening, Pallone said.

Beamer told Jefferson details about the hijackers, and that he and others were planning to retaliate. Pallone said Jefferson consoled Beamer and promised to call his wife.

"Prior to us being able to pass the call over to the FBI, the call was terminated," Pallone said.

Jefferson told authorities she heard passengers "wailing" in the background, Pallone said. *AP*

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US has no blank check from UN, Nato for its anti-terrorist actions

By Evelyn Leopold

UNITED NATIONS—With the United States gearing up for a "war against terrorism," some nations are gingerly pointing out that Washington does not have a blank check for military action from the United Nations or Nato.

Pakistan's military government, for one, a key player in the battle against the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, has referred to UN resolutions to express its caution about military commitments in any operation in neighboring Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar on Saturday suggested a United Nations resolution may be needed to authorize any military action against Afghanistan's Taliban rulers. They allow Osama bin Laden, the Saudi Arabian-born millionaire singled out by the United States as a prime suspect in the attacks, to remain in the Islamic nation as a "guest."

On Sunday, Sattar said his government would comply with all UN Security Council resolutions to combat terrorism.

"Consistent with Pakistan's policy of support for the decisions of the Security Council, the government will discharge its responsibilities under international law," he said.

The 15-member UN Security Council last Wednesday adopted a resolution expressing its "readiness to take all necessary steps" to respond to the strikes in which hijackers slammed planes into the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon near Washington. But that move was a far cry from authorization to take military action.

Italy's Defense Minister Antonio Martini said in an interview with the daily Il Messaggero on Sunday the idea that the United States should seek approval from the United Nations first was "gaining ground." But on Monday, in an interview with Reuters, he unequivocally said Rome was ready to deploy troops and aircraft, if requested.

At the United Nations, the United States could justify military action by relying on Article 51 of the UN Charter.

That allows "the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a member of the United Nations until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security.

Unlike its efforts ahead of the Gulf War, the United States, for now, has no plans to ask the United Nations for any specific authorization and will probably focus on Nato first, UN diplomats said.

And few expect them to in the near future. "No one around the corridors is saying yet they must not do anything without UN endorsement," a senior Security Council source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

While the United States has said it is exploring a range of options in response to the attack, people have begun fleeing Afghanistan ahead of an expected strike.

Secretary of State Colin Powell has not disclosed precisely what he would like Pakistan to do. But the list of requirements was expected to include access to intelligence, cutting off the Taliban's oil supply and freezing its assets. He may also ask that US ground troops and air force be allowed to use Pakistan as a launching pad for any attack on Bin Laden and his followers.

In Britain, Prime Minister Tony Blair has called for a global campaign to find the perpetrators "and destroy their machinery of terror" after the coordinated strikes that have left more than 5,000 people missing or dead.

But his government has appealed to Washington to deliberate before any retaliatory attack, with a spokesperson saying Nato support did not necessarily "mean a blank check."

For the first time in its 52-year history, Nato invoked the key Article V of its founding treaty last Wednesday, declaring the strikes were an attack on all Nato members and could prompt a military response. But despite Nato's unprecedented move, the allies made clear they would need another request from the United States for assistance before making any military moves.

In Dublin, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said that US action after the attacks on New York and Washington was a right under United Nations law, but he hoped the response would be carefully deliberated.

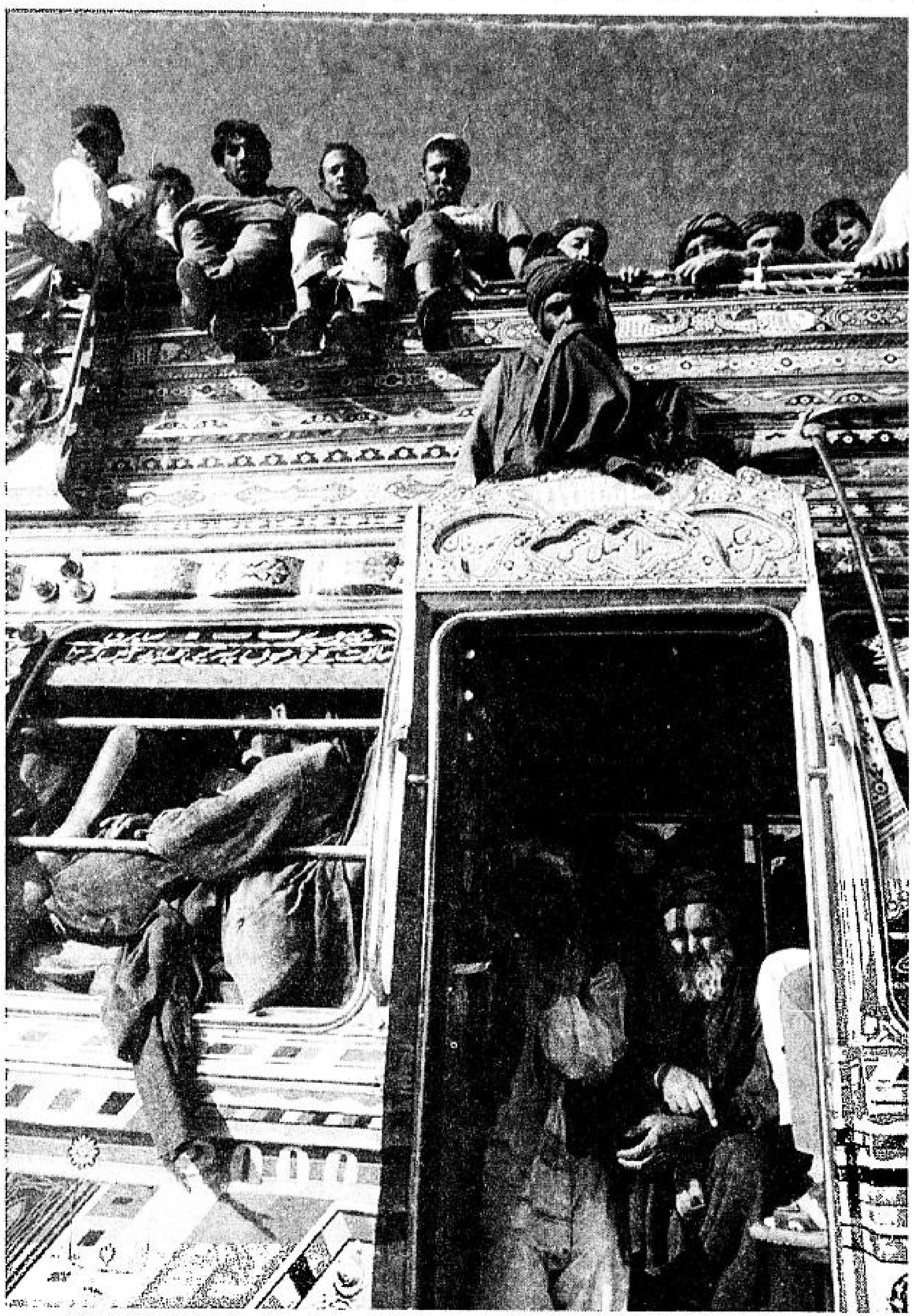
"Self-defense is a right under the United Nations Charter, so they have the right under international United Nations law," Ahern told RTE Irish television on Sunday.

But he said many people were concerned "that a whole lot of countries are not drawn into this."

In contrast, former President George Bush, father of George W. Bush, in late 1990 obtained Security Council authorization for driving Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, with then-Secretary of State James Baker flying around the world to lobby 13 of the 15 council members.

Currently, political analysts say, the wording of any resolution would be difficult as the United States itself is not certain yet of what action to take and where to take it.

"They will go to Nato first and then maybe think about the United Nations," the Security Council diplomat said. *Reuters*



AFGHANS terrified about a possible attack on their homeland sit on the rooftop of a traditionally decorated bus after crossing the Pakistan-Afghan border at Chaman, 130 km northwest of Baluchistan's provincial capital of Quetta Sept. 17. Hundreds of Afghans, most of them women and children were seen entering into Pakistan in the wake of the attacks on New York and Washington.
REUTERS

PALESTINIAN boys throw stones during clashes with an Israeli tank near the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the Gaza Strip Sept. 17. REUTERS

Israelis raid Gaza on Jews' New Year

GAZA CITY—As Israelis headed to synagogues across the country to celebrate the Jewish New Year Tuesday, Army tanks and troops made a double incursion into Palestinian-controlled land in the Gaza Strip.

The push by tanks and bulldozers, which Israel said was in retaliation for Palestinian attacks, came a day after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said he had ordered his forces to silence their guns in a bid to jumpstart a failed June ceasefire.

The Israeli armor destroyed a port building used by European companies south of Gaza City, said Mahmud Abu Khaled, a member of a Gaza port development company.

The operation was in response to mortar fire, an Israeli Army spokesperson said.

A similar operation in which a house was destroyed took place in the Tell El-Sultan district of Rafah in the south of the Gaza Strip near the Israeli-Egyptian border, Palestinian security officials said.

No casualties were reported.

In a separate incident near Nablus in the West Bank, Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian man and seriously injured another.

Relatives said the men were shot while trying to plant a bomb in Bazariya village north of Nablus, but Israeli radio said they were gunned down as they tried to run down a group of soldiers in a tractor.

Motaz Daghlas, 26, was killed and Mohammad Hojja, 35, was wounded. The Israeli Army was holding Hojja and Daghlas' body.

Meanwhile Palestinians in the West Bank city of Hebron said they had found the bullet-riddled body of taxi driver Ismail Dawdi, 30, killed in a shoot-out in the city where 400 Jewish settlers live under heavy Army guard surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians.

In a year of bloodshed, 815 people have lost their lives, including 625 Palestinians and 167 Israelis. *AFP*

Asia faces prolonged slump after US attacks

SINGAPORE—Asia's troubled economies, already hammered by the global slowdown, now face the prospect of a prolonged slump in the wake of the terrorist attacks in the United States, economists said Tuesday.

The attacks have slowed world trade to a crawl and for the export-led Asian economies that depend heavily on the US market, the prognosis is grim.

Singapore and Taiwan are already in recession, Hong Kong is dangerously close, and Thailand and Malaysia have barely escaped.

"This is going to worsen the situation. The global economy will sink as a result," Chia Woon Khien, a regional economist at Anglo-Dutch bank ING Barings, said.

"What happened in the US is a negative sum game. For Asia, the impact would be worse. The likelihood is there of a prolonged recession," she said.

Prior to the attacks, there was cautious optimism the region could squeeze out a modest recovery in the first half of 2002 but such hopes have evaporated.

"For the next 100 days when the US economy is in a mourning period, we think that spending and investment decisions will be put on hold," said GK Goh brokerage regional economist Song Seng Wun, who now sees a regional recovery in the latter half of 2002.

The lead-up to Christmas and New Year is traditionally a crucial period for Asia, particularly for the key electronics sector.

Economists said the timing could not have been worse for a region, which was hit less than three years ago by the 1997-98 financial crisis.

Unlike that crisis, when the booming US economy was the white knight for Asia, there is little the region can do this time round to stem the downturn except to ride it out, economists said.

Even economic stimulus packages to boost domestic demand would not make up for the slack in foreign trade, economists said. *AFP*

Koreas agree to more reunions

SEOUL—North and South Korea agreed Tuesday to hold more reunions of families kept apart by their war more than 50 years ago, putting their faltering peace process back on track.

The two sides announced family meetings and more talks next month in a joint statement released at the end of the first official negotiations between the two Koreas in more than six months.

They also agreed to revive other reconciliation initiatives, launched after a historic summit between the leaders of the North and South last year, which foundered after the communist North froze contacts in March.

"Through the [illegible], the two Koreas showed their determinat[illegible] put their rapprochement back on track, Rhee Bong-jo of the South's unification ministry said at the end of the ministerial talks.

"I'm convinced the crucial accords will nourish co-prosperity and trust between South and North Korea," said the South's Unification Minister Hong Soon-young.

More relatives divided since the 1950-53 Korean War will be allowed to meet in Seoul and Pyongyang from Oct. 16-18, said the statement.

But it was not know how many people would be allowed to take part. Three rounds of family reunions since the Pyongyang summit in June last year have covered just 600 people.

Millions of mainly elderly people are said to be seeking news of long-lost kin on the other side of the De-Militarized Zone (DMZ), the unofficial border that splits the Korean peninsula. *AFP*

Decades of war have thrown Afghans into a grim life

By Kathy Gannon

KABUL, Afghanistan—Mir Jan slowly slides his fingers along the scar that runs across his forehead.

His cheek bone protrudes. Another scar zigzags down the side of his nose, causing his nose to be pushed to one side. He lifts his unkempt beard to reveal another jagged seam; this one runs almost from ear to ear.

Jan's misshapen face is a painful map of the tragedy that is Afghanistan.

The forehead wound happened during the 1979-1989 occupation by the Soviet Union. The disfigured cheek and nose are the result of a bomb that blew up near his face after Soviet troops had left Afghanistan and US-backed insurgents took power, turning their guns on each other and killing about 50,000 people in the capital, Kabul, most of them civilians.

"They told me I wouldn't be alive for one more hour and then they said by the end of the day I would be dead," Jan says.

But he lived to get the third scar that runs the length of his neck, fighting as a Taliban soldier against a northern-based alliance led by ousted president Burhanuddin Rabbani.

"If God says you die at 10 o'clock, it won't be 10 minutes later. That is when you will die," he said. "What can we do in our country? We have nothing, only war and more war."

While residents fear a retaliatory US attack on Afghanistan—which has refused to surrender Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the terrorist assaults on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon—most Afghans are fatalistic.

"What more can happen to us? Our whole country is rubble," said Shukat Mir, stroking his long beard.

Afghanistan is a land maimed by war and ravaged by rival armies, a land of poor widows and orphans. The United Nations calls the country a "humanitarian catastrophe." Devastated by relentless war, a punishing drought and a shattered economy, only the poorest still live there. Those with education and money have mostly left.

Many Afghans live as refugees in Pakistan or Iran, but many more have fled to Western nations.

Women in giant sweeping burqas sit in the middle of the rocket-rutted roads in Kabul, their hands outstretched begging for food. Under stringent Taliban rules, women can no longer work.

Outside a mosque, one woman quietly comes forward, speaking English. "Please, I am not a beggar, I am an English teacher. Could you find me a job in one of the provinces?" *AP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country particularly Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 22° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 26
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/19/01

ROUNDUP

Fire razes homes

ROXAS CITY—Eleven families lost their homes in a fire that hit Inzo Arnaldo Village here Saturday. The fire started in the house of one Nena Fernandez around 8:15 p.m. and spread to neighboring houses. Fireman Donnie Acevedo estimated the amount of the damage at P800,000. He said they were looking into witnesses' account that the fire could have been caused by a lighted candle inside Fernandez's house. Fernandez could not be found, he said.

Gerry Pagharion, PDI Visayas Bureau

Wanted man nabbed

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The fourth most wanted man in Cagayan Valley was arrested in Binondo, Manila, on Sept. 12, after more than three years in hiding, police said. Samson Bangalan, who has a P100,000 reward for his capture, was arrested by joint operatives of the regional police and the Western Police District. He is the principal suspect in the 1998 murder of PO3 Isagani Tabilas of the Cagayan provincial police in Tuguegarao City. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Narra lumber seized

SAN ISIDRO, Isabela—About 800 board feet of narra lumber and flitches were confiscated last week by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources workers here. The seized narra flitches and lumber, worth about P45,000, were loaded in a Fuso Canter van driven by Eliseo Datul of Sto. Tomas, Nueva Ecija. When chased near the Isabela-Nueva Vizcaya boundary, Datul stepped on the gas and tried to flee but the vehicle was intercepted near Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

700 held for 'jueteng'

CABANATUAN CITY—The arrest of more than 700 violators of the anti-gambling law showed that jueteng continues to proliferate in all but five towns and a city in Nueva Ecija. The provincial police reported that 166 operations against jueteng that were conducted from March until the second week of September resulted in the arrest of 716 persons. Police confiscated bets amounting to P374,473.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Ordinance alarms fishers

MATI, Davao Oriental—Fisherfolk in Davao Oriental expressed alarm anew after the provincial board passed an ordinance lifting the ban on spear fishing with the aid of air compressor. Hundreds of fishermen trooped to the provincial capitol saying compressor fishing is destructive because it destroys coral reef formations. Board member Anaclito Macatabog, however, said the claim that spear fishing with the aid of an air compressor is a destructive fishing method has no basis.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Plant veggies, gov orders

MATI, Davao Oriental—Gov. Ma. Elena Palma Gil ordered contractual workers to maintain at least a vegetable garden in their homes. Palma Gil said this is in line with her thrust "to counter massive poverty," under the Food Always in the Home (Faith) program. She said contractual workers who fail to comply with her order would be terminated. Palma Gil formed a council to monitor compliance with the order. She also urged various schools here to adopt the program, saying 52 percent of Filipinos have no food to eat.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

10 NPAs captured

DAVAO CITY—At least 10 New People's Army guerrillas were captured during raids by government troopers on two rebel camps in Davao Oriental on Saturday and Sunday. Brig. Gen. Felipe Berroya, commander of the Army's 601st Infantry Battalion based here, said soldiers of the 8th Special Forces, led by Maj. Alex Gopico, overran rebel camps in Baganga and Cateel towns. The rebels, he said, use these camps for training.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

'Sura' outbreak feared

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The Cotabato provincial veterinarian warned of a possible outbreak of the deadly animal disease *sura*, which already killed at least 15 animals in M'lang town. Dr. Enrico Garzon said the fly-borne disease multiplies in the bloodstream, lymphatic vessels, tissues, and central nervous systems of animals. He urged farmers to have their animals vaccinated because treating *sura* could be very expensive.

Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Co-ops linked to poaching

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Cagayan Rep. Manuel Mamba on Friday accused the Department of Environment and Natural Resources officials of allegedly using upland farmers' organizations as fronts for illegal logging activities.

Mamba said he would call for a House investigation of the alleged manipulation by unscrupulous environment officials of the permits of organizations that are covered by Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) agreements in the DENR.

Under the CBFM program, residents in forest areas are given occupancy rights by the DENR for the protection and rehabilitation of forests. They are also allowed to harvest forest products for small-scale livelihood.

Alfredo Pascual, DENR director for Cagayan Valley, said he would look into the reported violation of CBFM agreements but insisted on the legality of the issuance of tree-cutting permits.

He said under the agreement, farmers' organizations are allowed to trade a limited volume of their lumber production anywhere in the country.

"Part of (the cooperatives') development plan is this free enterprise wherein they can sell their products here or in other areas," Pascual said.

"They can sell lumber products as long as they leave 20 percent of their allowable cut for (the consumption of) local (furniture) industries.

"*Maliit lang naman 'yung ibinibigay sa kanila* (What is given to them is just a small volume)."

Mamba, however, cited "questionable" CBFM agreements issued by the DENR to farmers' groups in the towns of Peñablanca and Gattaran, which were reportedly being "used and abused" to hide timber logging and smuggling operations.

"(Environment) Secretary (Heherson) Alvarez should immediately investigate the involvement of Cenros (Community Environment and Natural Resources Officers) here who are issuing these CBFM permits," Mamba said.

He said under its CBFM agreement, the Lapi Upland Farmers Cooperative Inc. (Lufci) based in Barangay Lapi in Peñablanca town was given by the DENR an "annual allowable cut" of 24,000 board feet of narra and 120,000 board feet of common hardwood species.

Mamba said the DENR has granted Lufci a resource use permit for 10,000 hectares with felled trees in a log pond in Barangay Tawi, also in Peñablanca, some 500 meters from the Callao Caves.

"With this large volume (of forest products) that the DENR allows to be harvested within a year, it will just be a matter of time before the forests of Cagayan (are) gone," Mamba said.

He also said the CBFM permit was issued without following guidelines on the protection of forests and the natural environment of the Sierra Madre mountain range.

At 359,500 hectares, Sierra Madre is said to be the largest protected area in the country, representing "close to 10 percent of the country's remaining primary forest and up to one-fourth of its undisturbed lowland rainforest," according to José Ma. Lorenzo Tan in his book "The Last Great Forest."

Peñablanca, on the other hand, occupies rich forests in southern Cagayan, which borders the Northern Sierra Madre Natural Park and the site of the famed Callao Caves, the premier tourist attraction of the province. Its forest area also serves as a watershed for the Pinacanauan River.

Reports on illegal logging operations, Mamba said, were confirmed by the interception on Sept. 10 of a truckload of narra lumber in Nueva Vizcaya that was believed to have been smuggled out of Cagayan.

"This may just be the tip of the iceberg," Mamba said, while expressing doubt that the shipment was officially given clearance and shipping permits by Agerico Bueno, Cenro of the DENR office in Aparri, Cagayan.

The shipment of 6,000 board feet of narra, valued at P1.2 million, reportedly came from the forests of Gattaran town, on the eastern coast of Cagayan.

The load was registered under the Bolos Point Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. (BPMPCI), based in Barangay Bolos Point in Gattaran, and was to be delivered to Seagull Fine Wood Products in Antipolo City.

Bolos Point, a wildlife sanctuary in the forests of Sierra Madre, is also a CBFM area.

Sayyaf leader turns himself in

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A man claiming to be a commander of the Abu Sayyaf based in Sulu surrendered to the military early Monday.

Col. Francisco Gudani, deputy chief of the Southern Command, identified the bandit leader as Manahan Jumadil, alleged sub-commander of Galib Andang alias Commander Robot.

Gudani said Maimbung town Mayor Najib Maldiza facilitated Jumadil's surrender.

Jumadil, a resident of Barangay Lumapid in Talipao town, also turned over an M-16 Armalite rifle. He is now undergoing tactical interrogation.

Gudani said the military was checking if Jumadil was in the Army's order of battle.

In Basilan, soldiers of the 18th Infantry Battalion and the 3rd Scout Ranger Company recovered several war materials in an abandoned hut in Barangay Upper Sinangkapan in Tuburan town Sunday.

Col. Pedro Cesar Ramboanga, chief of the 102nd Brigade, said recovered were 60mm mortar shells, uniforms, handheld radio batteries and chargers.

Ramboanga said the recovered items belonged to Suhud Tanadjalin, an Abu Sayyaf leader based in Tuburan.

"When they sensed that our troops were approaching, they probably scampered and left these materials," Ramboanga said.

Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau

SUSPECT CRIES FRAMEUP

NBI sues Korean trader for rape

CEBU CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation here filed on Monday charges of rape and acts of lasciviousness against a Korean businessman.

Cho Kue Soc, in his 40s and a native of South Korea, was accused of raping a 31-year-old woman and molesting her friend last week inside a condominium he rents.

The Korean was a frequent visitor to the Philippines. He would usually buy items from South Korea, such as houseware, which he would later sell in the Philippines.

Susan and her friend Rina, 28, (not their real names) complained to the NBI that Soc abused them on Sept. 14 when they, with Rina's sister, visited him in his condominium unit on Juana Osmeña Extension in this city.

Soc was detained at the NBI office after the agents arrested him on Saturday.

He denied the allegations, saying Susan had agreed to have sex with him. He claimed that Susan got angry when he refused to give them money.

"I call only one girl, they came three of them, they said hungry, I cook fish for them dinner," Soc said in broken English.

Soc also claimed that the three women had asked money from him in exchange for the dropping of the case. But, he added, he followed the advice of his friends to turn down the offer.

NBI special investigator Rey Tomalon said they would have to release Soc because no warrant was issued for his arrest.

He explained that the complainants did not appear when the NBI filed the case before the city prosecutor's office. As a result, no inquest proceeding was conducted, which would have hastened the filing of the case in court.

In her complaint, Susan said she and her two friends went to Soc's condominium unit after the Korean asked her to come because he had an important matter to discuss with her.

Susan said she thought that Soc had a message for her friend, Raquel, who was the Korean's girlfriend. Instead of going to the condo unit alone, she decided to bring along Rina and her sister.

When they arrived in Soc's condo unit, the Korean prepared dinner. After eating, Soc allegedly asked them to spend the night with him.

When they refused, the Korean allegedly got angry and started throwing things around. He also threatened to throw the women out of the window, Susan said. It was then they decided to stay.

But Susan claimed that Soc raped her in front of Rina and her sister who just screamed and did not do anything to help her, apparently because of fear that they will be harmed.

In her affidavit, Rina said Soc molested her after raping Susan.

Kathy Navarro, PDI Visayas Bureau

Catanduanes' vanishing trade of boat-building

By Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

CABUGAO, Catanduanes—Jesus Trambulo is the last *batil* maker here, the boat building capital of the province for three decades until the early 1980s. A *batil* is a wooden launch.

Trambulo, who will be 79 years old next month, has stopped building big wooden boats but still keeps himself busy with carpentry.

Wearing a baseball cap, T-shirt, shorts and slippers, he was building a house when interviewed on the vanishing boat building trade in the province.

Ruperto "Mang Perto" Balmadrid, a captain for 15 years of a motor launch built in Cabugao, described Trambulo as one of the five boat builders of this district of Bato town. The others have died.

Mang Perto, also 78 and a resident of this district, identified the others as Juan Taule, Juan Leonardo, Ursus Magdaraog and Juan Diaz.

"*Duwa ang dala ninda. Karpentero sa sakayan buda karpentero sa halong* (They are both builders of boats and houses)," Mang Perto said of these men.

Parao, casco and small *banca* for coastal and deep fishing were also built here, according to Mang Perto.

A WOODEN boat takes shape in Cabugao in 1969, when the boat-building industry in the town was at its peak.

COURTESY OF TARIMAN FAMILY

Favored transport

Parao was the favored sea transport to nearby provinces during World War II. It had a sail and outrigger.

Casco, a boat fashioned from a single log, is still in use today for *sensoro*, a method of catching fish using a fine net which people slowly pull toward the shore.

Mang Perto, now [illegible] *usila* (fisherman) and owner of a *casco* [illegible] id boat making in Cabugao started with the *ambit*, a term referring to *sensoro*.

Then came the big wooden boats.

Among the launches built here were Pe Glory, Universal, Rosary, Fatima, Flying A, Hiljun, Bernadette, Lorena, Odessa, Golden Anchor and Helen Rose I.

The biggest was "MB Bernadette," owned by Benny Co, a Chinese-Filipino trader from the capital town of Virac. The motor boat was about 35 meters long and 12 meters wide. A mini-truck could maneuver inside the launch.

Demand

Commerce fueled the demand for big wooden boats. These were used to transport cement, GI sheets, iron bars, rice, flour, plywood, soft drinks, gin, *balao* (shrimp paste), *hingmay* (fish paste), dried fish, fruits and vegetables to the island province.

The boats also transported goods to and from Manila, Cebu, Marinduque, Mindoro, Palawan and Mindanao.

It was Pedro Tariman, a trader from Cabugao, who started the launch building industry in the province. Tariman was the first to have a launch built here in the early 1960s. It was followed by two bigger launches. The boats were all named Pe Glory, after Tariman and his wife.

Carlito Tariman, a son of Pedro, said his father had a launch built because of the growing trade in *balao* and *dilis* (anchovies).

Carlito said the motorized *banca* his father was using could no longer handle the volume of *balao* and *dilis* he was buying from Polillo Island, Garchitorena in Camarines Sur and Tabaco, Albay.

"He realized the need to build a small launch," said the young Tariman, now a resident of Quezon City.

Boat makers

Mang Perto said Cabugao, which lies at the mouth of the Bato River and five kilometers from Virac, became a boat building center because it had the best boat makers in the province.

Cabugao also had a dry dock, a pier and shelters for boats during typhoons.

The availability of wood in Bato and other parts of the province also contributed to making Cabugao the boat building capital of the province.

The rise of boat building here coincided with commercial logging in the province. One of the three logging firms that operated in the province was Aldemac of the late Rep. Jose Alberto. It exported logs to Japan.

Trambulo said he learned the craft of making boats from Pablo Celso, foreman of the boats built for Tariman.

Trambulo said launches could be built any time of the year as long as there was no typhoon. It took four to eight carpenters to finish a launch in four months.

Memory

Despite his fading memory, Trambulo could easily recall the tree species used in building boats.

He said "apilig" (*xanthostemon bracteatus*) or mutonbuton (*planchonia spectabilis*), commonly known as "lamog," was used for the "kilya (keel)."

"Dagang" (*anisoptera aurea*) was for the "tasok (frame)" and hamulawon (*vitex parviflora*), commonly known as molave, was for the frame and "entable (walls)."

The dagang found in Catanduanes is the best of its kind in the country, said the young Tariman, who managed six of the launches built here. He now owns a landing craft transport called the "Sea Lord."

Apilig, mutonbuton, dagang and hamulawon are still available in the forests of Catanduanes, according to Catalina Manlangit, a forester at the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office.

Trambulo said he was willing to pass on his skill to others.

"*Ako ang mangadal (I will be the teacher). Maski* unskilled *kaya kong* i-train. *Baging piga-kartilya* (Like teaching how to read)," he said.

Trambulo said he had an apprentice once. But the apprentice died when "MB Bernadette" sank off the coast of Palawan during a typhoon many years ago.

Despite his willingness to share his knowledge, Trambulo's craft may not be passed on to others as big wooden boats are no longer built here.

The decline of boat building in Cabugao started with the advent of steel-hulled motor launches in the province.

Morlito Villafuerte, a *kagawad* of Barangay Binanwahan in Cabugao, said it made business sense to shift to steel-hulled launches because wooden boats cost a lot to insure.

He said the enforcement of the log ban in the country sealed the fate of the boat industry in Cabugao.

Unless others learn from Trambulo while there is still time, his knowledge of the craft of making big wooden boats in Cabugao will be lost forever.

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JOSE LEO P. CAPARAS
National President, CFIP

MESSAGE

FURNITURE WEEK CELEBRATION

Strong camaraderie and genuine dedication is the engine that propels an industry to grow and serve it mission.

For 35 years, the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines has served its growing membership in many ways. Our mission is to collaborate and work for sustained growth of the industry and achieve global competitiveness.

CFIP is dynamic. We believe that a positive change is growth and growth is always an achievement. We are proud to announce that we have yet another feather to put in our cap as the Presidential Proclamation No. 368, otherwise known as the "Furniture Week" was signed last year. This year will be the first celebration as it coincides with the CFIP's 35th Anniversary. We enjoin everybody to celebrate with us. Various activities are lined-up to highlight the occasion.

It is with great pleasure that I invite you all to the First Furniture Week Celebration starting from September 17 to 23, 2001.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

The Philippine Furniture Industry

The Philippine furniture industry has finally emerged as the trendsetter among the furniture-producing countries of Asia, earning itself the title "Milan of Asia". It ranks as the world's best and is known all over as home to native artisans with excellent design flair and deft hands. In fact, Philippine furniture and furnishings are constant fixtures of the showrooms of the more established importers of the world.

The success of the Philippine furniture industry is perhaps no more apparent than the significant mark it has made internationally. Despite the economic crisis, latest government trade statistics show that furniture exports have been on the upswing. In 2000, Philippine exports of furniture amounted to $381.4 million with wood as the top choice for furniture materials. The first half of the year 2001 revealed a US$131.3 Million export earning with USA still grabbing the top market share, followed by Japan, and Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Woodcrafts and furniture ranked fourth with registered growth of 22.2 percent totaling to US$39.5 from US$32.3 million.

FURNITURE WEEK CELEBRATION

September 17-23 : **FURNITURE 7-DAY SALE**

September 18 : **FURNITURE OLYMPICS**
Philippine Furniture Training Center at TESDA, Taguig.

September 19 : **SUPPLIERS FORUM**
Penthouse, BOI Bldg., Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

September 20 : **INDOOR SPORTSFEST**
Paeng's Superbowl, Robinsons Galleria.

September 21 : **FURNITURE CONGRESS (PRESIDENT'S MEETING)**
Clermont Function Room, Discovery Suite, Ortigas, Pasig City.

September 22 : **TREE PLANTING**
Bulacan

Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines

The Philippine furniture industry has been marked by the increasing number of downstream value added activities undertaken by local producers. Many of the country's current furniture manufacturers were incorporated in the late 1960's and early 1970's as rattan pole traders who exported their raw materials products to furniture manufacturers to the United States, Taiwan and other countries.

Working behind the furniture industry is the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines. CFIP was established in September 1966. This endeavor was initially prompted by common problems - the need to know and appreciate each other on a personal basis, develop technological expertise and the realization of the value of the collective use of influence.

When the Philippine government banned the export of rattan poles in 1977, many of the rattan traders upgraded their production to unfinished furniture parts such as chair backs, legs and seats, which were then exported to furniture assemblers.

It was only a matter of time before the industry was then able to produce its own assembled furniture makers around the globe.

Further progress was also noted as the industry began to diversify its scope of activities, venturing into different types of furniture items, which the market received well.

Part of this diversification included the use of more types of raw materials unique to the Philippines. This was brought about by the growing scarcity of rattan poles. What arose as a consequence of this was the introduction of non-traditional and indigenous materials such as bamboo, buri, coconut, leather, wood, stone and wrought iron/metal; all of which even boosted the industry's capabilities and increased the base of product lines that could be offered to the market.

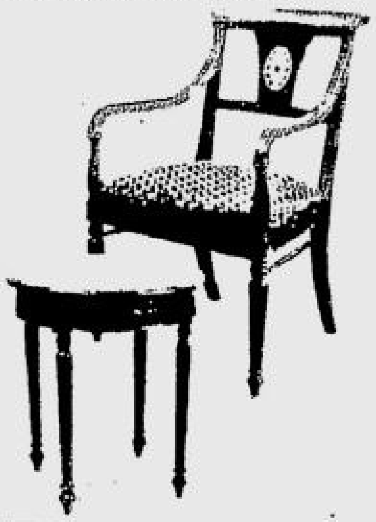
From an initial group of eleven (11) companies, the CFIP has grown with twelve (13) chapters nationwide and 1,500 member companies.

CFIP has established several projects both local and international. These are:

- Philippine Furniture Festival - Held twice a year at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall. The 21st PFF will be held on November 9-18, 2001 and will highlight Philippine-made furniture under the theme "Homegrown".
- Philippine International Furniture Show – held annually at the World Trade Center. PIFS is participated in by more than 1,500 foreign and local trade buyers, PIFS showcases the unique craftsmanship and the unequalled creativity of Filipinos. PIFS 2002 will be held on February 28-March 3, 2002.
- Project TREE (Timber Resources for Environment Enrichment) – CFIP, in its effort of addressing its moral responsibility to the environment, and be a model chamber, came up with this project to:

1.Promote the use of Industrial Tree Plantation Timber or I.T.P.T.
2.Promote the correct processing of ITPT
3.Long term plantation development

- Furniture Week – declared by the President of the Republic of the Philippines last September 4, 2000, that the third week of September of each year as "Furniture Week
- The APEC Furniture Forum – A 2-day symposium with the theme "Breakthroughs in the Furniture Trade of APEC Developing Economy in the Global Market" will be held in November 26-27, 2001 at the Manila Hotel, Philippines.
- The CFIP is housed at Unit H, 9/F, Strata 100 Bldg., Emerald Ave., Pasig City, Metro Manila, with telephone numbers 6312834 / 6329007 / 6372742 to 43; fax No. (632) 6312977; e-mail: info@cfipnet.com. For more information, visit CFIP's website at: www.cfipnet.com.



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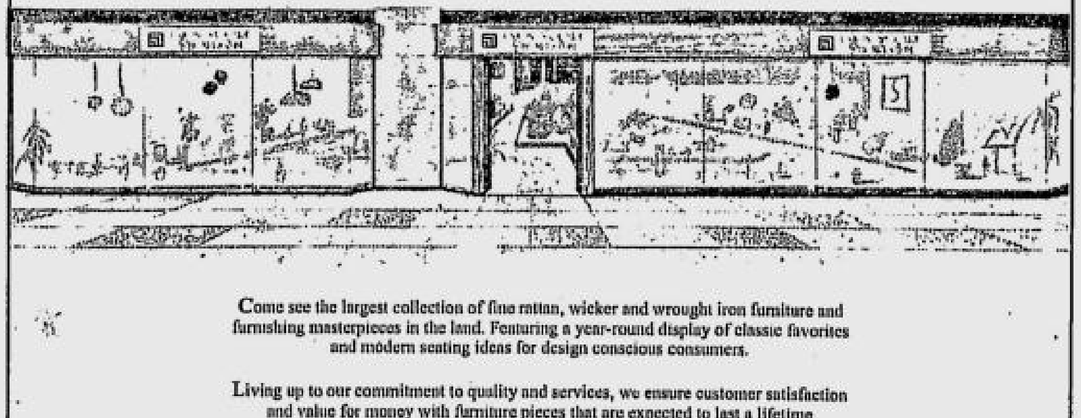

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

‘Islamophobia’ is also a terrorist attack victim

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

THE TERRORIST attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11 and their aftermath threaten to rob whatever seeds of hope for world peace sown in Durban, South Africa, this month.

"Islamophobia" and other forms of hate were among various concerns which 18,000 delegates from governments and nongovernment groups from 170 countries sought to banish in this century when they met for the United Nations World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) from Aug. 31 to Sept. 8 in the South African convention capital.

Although mired in controversies, such as the Sept. 3 Israel and US delegations' walkout over what they claimed were "racist" texts of the WCAR draft declaration, the conference generated hope in helping resolve conflicts rooted in racism, discrimination, xenophobia (hatred or disdain for anyone or anything foreign) and related intolerance.

Islamophobia, a new coinage, which means hatred and fear of Islam, was one of the wide-ranging concerns that the WCAR sought to address. The conference also sought to resolve issues related to anti-Semitism (anti-Jewish sentiments) and "anti-Arabism" or hatred for Arabs.

New hope

Amid heated debates, WCAR delegates were able to agree on a compromise declaration text. The final declaration and a program of action, said an optimistic UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and WCAR Secretary General Mary Robinson, would definitely bring "new hope for millions as they seek to regain their human dignity and human rights after we (delegates) leave Durban."

Durban, as the convention capital of a country that had long struggled and finally won over apartheid in 1994, lent a historic significance to the global campaign to battle racism and intolerance.

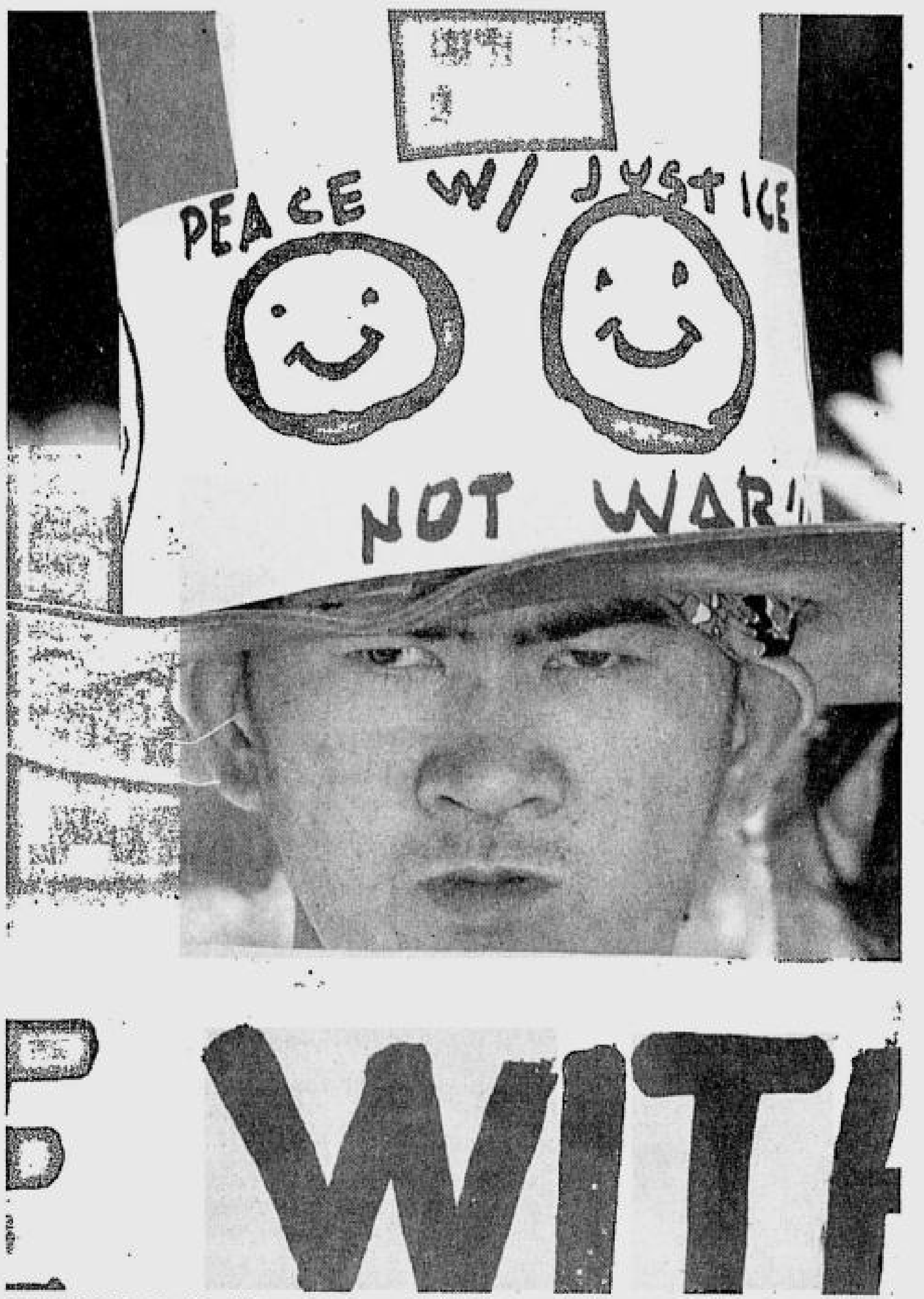
In its program of action, the WCAR urges all states to forge and implement measures to address the cycle of hate that continues to breed war, violence and human suffering, all of which South African peoples experienced under apartheid rule.

"We call upon states, in opposing all forms of racism, to recognize the need to counter anti-Semitism, anti-Arabism and Islamophobia worldwide and urge all states to take collective measures to prevent the emergence of movements based on racism and discriminatory ideas concerning these communities," states one program of action provision.

Under threat

Held amid the resurgence of conflict in the Middle East, the WCAR also called for Israel and the Palestinians to end the violence by resuming negotiations and respect the "principle of self-determination" so that both parties can "develop and prosper in security and freedom."

But just as most WCAR delegates had returned to their home countries, planes hijacked by suicide bombers plowed into the World Trade Center's twin towers in New York and into the Pentagon.



A MEMBER of the Sanlakas wears protest hat to dramatize the militant group's opposition to the United States "all-out war" against terrorism in a rally in front of the US Embassy on Tuesday.
ERIK ARAZAS

With the recent turn of events, many countries now have to brace themselves for the impact of a possible new cycle of violence as Washington and its North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) allies contemplate retaliatory moves against the suspects in the worst terrorist attacks ever to hit the US.

US President George W. Bush has sternly warned countries harboring the masterminds in the terrorist attacks in the US that they could be justified targets.

Both the US Senate and Congress unanimously gave the green light for Bush to use military force in hunting down the perpetrators.

Analysts, however, are worried over the implication of military retaliation from Washington.

In the Philippines, sectoral Rep. Crispin Beltran expressed alarm over the offer of President Macapagal-Arroyo to make Subic Bay in Zambales and Clark Field in Pampanga refueling stations and launching pads for American military forces in pursuit of the suspects in the terror attacks.

Such offer, according to Beltran, would unduly put the Philippines in the terrorists' counter-retaliatory targets.

Driving a wedge

Others caution that military retaliation, among other reasons, is likely to drive a wedge between the Muslim world and the West and its allies.

According to the Christian Science Monitor, for example, many Muslims and Arabs have been alarmed by Osama bin Laden's emergence as the prime suspect.

The reason is apparent: the rest of the world is likely to misconstrue Islam as a religion that allows violence and bloodletting which, Islam leaders say, is not the case.

Like Christianity and other religions, Islam rejects violence and killing, the Christian Science Monitor quoted an Islamic cleric as saying.

But Islamophobia and anti-Arabism are likely to heighten in the aftermath of the WTC and the Pentagon bombings, which cost thousands of lives not only of innocent Americans but also of migrants, including Filipinos.

Reports from the US also told of anti-Arabic racist slurs and violence that American Arab migrants have to bear after the terrorist suicide bombings.

During the WCAR in Durban and a parallel NGO conference, Palestinian and Jewish NGO delegates could hardly hide the deep-seated animosities that could be traced to political tensions back home.

Name-calling, labeling and finger pointing almost turned a heated debate into a fistfight during a session of the NGO conference had UN security personnel and local police not intervened.

But under a global conference of the international community, which Robinson said was guided by the one-human-family principle, the tempers that flared in Durban were fortunately resolved through openness and dialogue. Other misgivings remained unresolved though, rooted in a long history of conflict.

The WCAR, conference leaders admitted, was not easy, especially so because the Middle East tension was just one of the many issues and tales of suffering heard in Durban.

Other tales of discrimination were raised by indigenous peoples, migrant workers from the Philippines and elsewhere, the Dalits or "untouchables" of India, the Tibetan people, and many more, such as the story of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade of Africans.

But conference president, Dr. Nkosazana Olamim Zuma of South Africa, said the spirit in which the compromise agreement was reached in Durban "should reverberate throughout the world."

This spirit, said Zuma, was built on "political will, spirit of give and take, and the spirit of understanding between delegations."

This, Robinson agreed, could lead to "a climate of agreement from the many voices heard in Durban." Such legacy from Durban, upon which a compromise declaration and program of action were born, Robinson hoped, would empower all the delegates and their own people as they ponder over and implement national policies in their own countries.

Maurice Malanes, Inquirer correspondent for Benguet and Baguio City, was one of the 1,100 journalists who covered the Aug.31-Sept.8 United Nations World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa. He was part of the Indigenous Media Team, a group of 10 indigenous peoples from around the world that worked with local and national media outfits. The team was organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Casecnan: A river of many returns

By Anselmo Roque
Nueva Ecija

CASECNAN is a river in Nueva Vizcaya that extends to nearby Quirino. It connects to at least 10 more rivers in the fastness of the Caraballo mountain range whose flow does not return to where it starts.

To the Bugkalot tribesmen scattered in Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Aurora and parts of Isabela, Casecnan means not just "the biggest river," its literal meaning in their language.

It means a "sacred place" for them. This is where they hold very important meetings, settle tribal differences, hold big weddings, and deliberate on their future.

In 1974, for instance, more than 500 Bugkalot chieftains met in the Casecnan area and founded the Bugkalot Confederation. The historic event was witnessed by then Dupax del Sur mayor and now Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla, then acting Mayor Antonio Teh of Maria Aurora town in Aurora, and then Mayor Arnulfo Agunalla of Maddela, Quirino.

"We agreed on many things for our own peace, unity and survival as a tribe," said the late former overall chieftain Salvador Molina in an earlier interview with the INQUIRER. He was the leader of the federation for 21 years.

The Bugkalots, according to Molina, live in a very harsh environment. Many people in the lowland areas still believe that the Bugkalots are still the same headhunting Ilongots, he said.

A rebirth

He stressed that their communities, especially in the Caraballo mountain range, appeared to be "God's forgotten place" that had no hope of being developed.

Actually, the name Bugkalot was a replacement of the tribe's old name of Ilongot. A majority of the tribesmen, according to Molina, already converted to Christianity and the headhunting practice was a thing of the past.

Molina, who died this year at 79, saw and even participated in the "rebirth" of the Bugkalot and the dawning of a new life which they had not imagined in their wildest dreams for the tribe and their communities. This was because of the Casecnan multipurpose irrigation and power project (CMIPP).

"Casecnan" for them has evoked another meaning. To the lowland people, particularly those in Nueva Ecija, the name means a "gift of a lifetime."

The Casecnan project is made up of two components—the build-operate-transfer and the irrigation. The more "exciting" of the two is the BOT, as it features varied infrastructure facilities that are a class by themselves.

The basic physical concept of the project is to divert the water flows from the Casecnan and Taan rivers in Nueva Vizcaya to the reservoir in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

Pantabangan reservoir

The ultimate aim is to augment water supply to the reservoir of Pantabangan Dam to irrigate more rice lands in Nueva Ecija outside of those already being served by the dam and to generate hydroelectric power.

The project was concretized to solve the growing inadequacy of Pantabangan Dam in giving its full service to its intended service areas. It failed in 1983 when the water level suffered an unprecedented low since it became operational in 1972 because of the long drought and it was feared that it might fail again.

Through a law principally authored by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and the four congressmen of Nueva Ecija, the CMIPP was born.

The CE Casecnan Water and Energy Co. (CE-CWEC), winner of the international bidding, started the project in December 1996. Soon, the name Casecnan came into the consciousness of many people. It became the representative name of the big area in the Caraballo mountain range where the BOT project started, including the communities of the Bugkalots living in the area, and even the place in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, which is the tailrace portion of the project.

The "exciting" features of the BOT project are the two insert diversion weirs (small dams), 26-km trans-basin tunnel, underground powerhouse, switchyard for the hydro-electric power supply, five desilting basins, three access tunnels, a surge tunnel, and a shaft from the powerhouse to the switchyard.

The weirs in the two rivers are unlike the other dams that impound large volume of water. At the Casecnan River, the weir is only 38.5 meters high and 156 meters long. That at Taan River is only 21.5 meters high and 174.75 meters long.

A tunnel connects the two weirs, which are 1.9 km apart.

Most spectacular facility of the project is the 6.5-meter diameter tunnel. It is an inclined 26-km tubular facility bored through solid rock or mixture of granite and diorite in the mountain range. This is where the "captured" water from Casecnan will flow out to the reservoir.

The CMIPP tunnel is believed to be the largest irrigation facility in the world.

Another impressive feature of the project is the underground powerhouse. It is a cavern 63 meters long, 23 meters wide and 43 meters deep excavated out of solid rocks.

Two big turbines and a big generator housed in the cavern will generate a nominal 150 megawatts of electricity that will be fed to the Luzon grid of the National Power Corp.

Dome

"This dome will be the safest place to go in case of a powerful earthquake," Steve Lyons, project manager of the CE-CWEC, told reporters during a recent familiarization tour of the project.

Lyons said the desilting basins would ensure that the water that will disgorge into the reservoir, is relatively clean.

The BOT project is now basically complete, according to Lyons. In fact, he said, what was being prepared now was its inauguration on Sept. 28.

Total cost of the project, according to Robert Eugenio, vice president of the CE-CWEC, amounted to $650 million (about P32.5 billion), $55 million more than earlier estimates.

Eugenio said the company would be charging for water delivery services to the National Irrigation Administration and electrical energy conversion services to the National Power Corp. for the next 20 years. At the end of the period, the NIA will run the project.

The project was endorsed by the regional councils of Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon, the provincial governments of Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela, Quirino and Cagayan, and the towns and barangays in the primary impact zone of the project, although it is Nueva Ecija that will primarily benefit from it.

Also, the social engineering aspect was given due attention so much so that the Bugkalots supported the project as they benefited immensely from it.

Cooperation

Casecnan, in a way, is a demonstration of what cooperation can do.

When the CMIPP becomes fully operational, an average of 802 million cubic meters of water will flow yearly into the 8,000-hectare reservoir of the Pantabangan Dam. This additional volume will enable the dam to irrigate 35,000 more hectares of rice fields in Nueva Ecija.

Estimated yearly harvest from the new irrigated areas is 465,000 metric tons of paddy rice with a direct net production value of P2.03 billion (1994 estimate).

More than 14,500 farmers in the towns of Guimba, Cuyapo, Talugtog and Nampicuan and the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija will enjoy two rice croppings a year.

The rice harvests from these new areas are calculated to be more than enough to make up for the losses in agricultural land in Central Luzon which were destroyed by lahar brought about by Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991.

The hydroelectric plant output from Casecnan and those from the two plants run by Pantabangan Dam will be able to supply electric power to an estimated 350,000 homes in Luzon.

In the first three years of operation of the BOT component, however, the augmented water of Pantabangan Dam will not yet reach all the targeted new service areas. Construction of the canals has yet to be finished in 2004.

Already benefited by the project are the five Bugkalot communities in Casecnan that can now be reached by motor vehicles in two to three hours from Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, through the access road constructed for the project.

A melding of faiths and peoples

By Gia Damaso-Dumo
San Fernando City

A MAJESTIC Taoist Temple in the heart of San Fernando City overlooking a blue bay has been drawing people from all walks of life for more than 25 years.

Here, tourists, businessmen, politicians, political wannabes, virtuous devotees, and plain folks needing a change of luck come to seek counsel from Ma-cho, the Chinese deity of the Sung Dynasty, whose eight-inch wooden image curiously has a counterpart in Catholicism known as the Virgin of Caysasay.

Next to the traditional Chinese New Year, the Feast of Ma-cho is probably the most celebrated event among the Chinese-Filipinos in San Fernando City, as well as among those in Taal, Batangas, with whom they have a unique bond.

Each of these towns has a shrine built in honor of a revered image that was believed to have been given as a "gift of love" by fishermen long ago by some design of fate.

Based on historical records, Ma-cho, also known by the names Ma Zu and Ma Cho Po, was a child prodigy born in 960 A.D., during the Sung Dynasty. Legend has it that she did not cry at all during her first month of life; thus, she was first named "Mo," meaning "keeping silent."

Lin Mo was very intelligent and was blessed with a photographic memory as well as with the gift of healing. At 10, she became a Buddhist and devoted the rest of her life to helping others.

Growing up on Meizhou Island in Fu Jian, very close to the busy seaport of Putian, Lin Mo not only joined rescue teams whenever disasters beset the sailors but also learned to forecast changes in weather, earning for her the name Dragon Girl or Goddess of the Sea. In some accounts, she was referred to as Queen of Heaven.

Sea goddess

She died at a young age of 27, but according to sailors and fishermen, her spirit, dressed in red, would time and again appear to save the lives of those in danger.

To this day, she is widely worshipped as a sea goddess and there are temples built in her honor across China as well as in Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and other countries with established Chinese communities.

Interestingly, a brass marker prominently posted at the entrance to the Ma-cho Temple in San Fernando also states that Ma-cho is known "among Christians as the Virgin of Caysasay who appeared in Taal in 1603," reportedly beside a spring or well.

The virgin's image, which devotees believe has healing powers, is now enshrined at the Basilica of St. Martin in Taal.

On Sept. 21-26, Ma-cho's devotees will again gather for the annual celebration of the image's enshrinement, a festive event highlighted by a pilgrimage to the Basilica of St. Martin.

From there, the devotees and the image of Ma-cho will make their way back to San Fernando, rounding the city's business district to shower her blessings upon those who seek it.

The parade will be accompanied by a traditional dragon dance and culminate in a cultural presentation by hired actors, much like the *cenaculo* in the Catholic tradition.

Ma-cho's actual feast day is April 16 and the anniversary of her "ascension" is on Oct. 25, according to Philip Pacol, businessman, Ma-cho devotee and occasional tour guide, whose father is one of 16 officers of Ma-cho Church Inc.

Upon entering the one-hectare garden where the temple stands, one immediately notices the beautifully carved stone statues of the "18 saints" in different poses lined up against a wall. The statues were imported from China after the temple was completed in 1975.

The courtyard at the foot of the temple features bricks in circular design. In the middle is a shallow pond adorned with water lilies, on one side a furnace where offerings are burned, and on another, more stone statues of animals.

Finally, one's eyes are drawn toward a towering arch that frames a breath-taking view of the sea. Inside the temple itself atop a grand staircase are red upholstered kneelers.

The wooden image of Ma-cho is only about eight inches tall and is practically dwarfed by its ornately carved, gold painted shrine, complete with decorative lights and encased in glass.

Oriental eyes

Ma-cho's oriental eyes are closed, her hands clasped together at her chest as if to say, "I have the answer," Pacol explained.

She is adorned with a traditional Chinese headdress and richly colored robes, not unlike the brocaded Sto. Niños in Catholic churches.

In fact, the image of the Virgin of Caysasay in Taal, which is only slightly taller than Ma-cho's, looks very much like a Sto. Niño, judging from its pictures, which are in the care of the temple officers.

The marker states that the image was a "gift of love from Taiwanese fishermen in 1968.". The construction of the temple was led by a certain Keh Hio, with the assistance of the late Tourism Minister Jose Aspiras and Rep. Liu Tsung Han of the People's Economic Cooperation Council of Taiwan.

Architect Thomas Diokno and engineer Victor BH Dy collaborated in making the overall design.

Aside from incense, devotees may offer food or money. Most visitors come to seek counsel or answer to their problem that is done through several ways.

Every other week, there is the "Buyong" session, which Pacol likened to a Mass in importance and ceremony. The Buyong involves temple elders who "read" or interpret Ma-cho's direct message to her people at a given time.

Also housed in this temple is Tho Ti Kong, or "God on Earth."

In another garden stands the marble statue of Kuan Yi Ma, the "God of Mercy."

The Ma-cho Temple has been listed by the Department of Tourism as a tourist destination in La Union. Perhaps like the Quiapo Church, which is known to draw religious fanatics alongside paid supplicants and fortune-tellers, Ma-cho (which in colloquial parlance means the opposite of virgin) will always be an interesting spot where the Filipino can discover more of himself.

Euro allies in the dark about US war plans

(From page A1)

United States could trigger even more terror that would inevitably hit them as well. And on a continent twice devastated by global conflicts in the 20th century, politicians are loathe to use the word "war." Europeans were shocked by the attacks in New York and Washington but have little stomach for a new, major conflict.

Islamic experts have also criticized Bush for using the word "crusade" to describe the campaign the United States is leading.

"It's what the terrorists use to recruit people—saying that Christians are on a crusade against Islam," said Yvonne Haddad, a professor of the history of Islam at Georgetown University in Washington. "It's as bad to their ears as it is when we hear 'jihad'."

Protracted war

In a midday visit to the Pentagon, where military planners were readying call-up orders for 35,000 reservists, Bush said the war on terrorism could be a protracted one, with American casualties. "We will win the war and there will be costs."

He said the reservists would serve as military police, engineers for projects, intelligence-gathering agents and chaplains in the struggle to come.

Turning his attention to those who carried out last week's attacks, he said, "We're going to find those evildoers, those barbaric people who attacked our country, and we're going to hold them accountable."

He cited Bin Laden as a "prime suspect," and issued yet another warning to Afghanistan's ruling Taliban not to give him continued safe haven.

As for Bin Laden himself, Bush said, "I want justice. And there's an old poster out west, that I recall, said, 'Wanted, Dead or Alive.'"

"This will be a different type of war ... a different type of enemy than we're used to," Bush said.

US officials gave no sign a military response was imminent, but held out little hope the Taliban would eject Bin Laden.

Yet Bush and US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Bin Laden's capture wouldn't end things.

"It is not enough to get one individual, although we'll start with that one individual. It will not be over until we have gotten into the inside of this organization, inside its decision cycle, inside its planning cycle, inside its execution capability, and until we have neutralized and destroyed it," said Powell.

Mosque visit

To counter a growing trend of Muslim-bashing in the United States, Bush also visited a mosque yesterday, and with Muslim-American leaders behind him spoke about the need to treat Muslims and Arab-Americans with respect. "Islam is peace," he said. "These terrorists don't represent peace, they represent evil and war."

Muslims have been the target of dozens of hate crimes in the United States over the last week, including arson, assault and possibly two murders, FBI Director Robert Mueller announced yesterday.

But Bush may have contributed to the problem by using the word "crusade" to describe the US-led campaign he is putting together.

He had earlier said, "This is a new kind of, a new kind of evil ... And the American people are beginning to understand. This crusade, this war on terrorism is going to take a while."

Some experts caution that using such a term, loaded with historical baggage about religious wars, could alienate moderate Muslims that the US needs.

"A lot of people think that America is out to get Islam anyway," Joshua Salaam, director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Washington, said yesterday. "We've got to be careful of the words we use."

America's leaders should be especially leery of anything that hints at a holy war, many said, because it plays into the hands of Bin Laden, who has said he wants the world to plunge into a holy war, or jihad, between Islam and Christianity.

The Crusades were a series of wars fought in the Middle Ages when Christian armies traveled to Palestine, or what is now modern-day Israel, to attack the Muslim armies that then controlled Jerusalem.

Assassins abroad

In Washington, presidential spokesperson Ari Fleischer said an executive order that bans assassinations does not restrict America's ability to act in self-defense.

"Our nation's been attacked, and we are at war, and to win a war it is vital for the United States to engage in it," Fleischer said. He said that could require "acts which involve the lives of others."

The ban stems from a single sentence in a 1976 executive order governing American intelligence activities. Signed by then President Gerald Ford, the order says: "No person employed by or acting on behalf of the United States government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, assassination."

Fleischer said the executive order "does not limit the United States' ability to act in self-defense."

Jeff Smith, a former top attorney at the Central Intelligence Agency, noted that the ban applied to intelligence, not military, activities. "We have been able to conduct military and intelligence operations, including operations that use force, when necessary to achieve our objectives," Smith said.

But, he added: "An individual sniper given the mission of shooting and killing a foreign leader, that sounds like assassination to me. And I think that would be prohibited under the current executive order."

Target only the guilty

Belgium's Michel said his country would send troops if specifically asked by the United States, "but not in any which way."

A day earlier, Italian Defense Minister Antonio Martino went even further. He "categorically excluded" the possibility of an "extraordinary call to arms" in Italy, according to a ministry statement.

Italy would reconsider if its soldiers were specifically needed and requested, Martino said, but added that such a situation "is not foreseen ... at this moment."

French President Jacques Chirac, who is to meet with Bush today, said France would be "totally supportive" once those responsible are identified. But French leaders also have stressed that the United States must take care to target only those who are guilty.

"We are not at war with the Arab-Muslim world or against Islam," said Vincent Peillon, a spokesman for the Socialist Party of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin. "We are at war with terrorists."

Even the traditionally closer allies, Germany and Britain, sounded cautious notes.

German President Johannes Rau called on the United States to respond to the attacks "with civil means." Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping said a decision on the kind of help Germany would provide had yet to be made.

But Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder refused to rule out the use of German soldiers in a US retaliatory strike. "You can't have a position of 'wash my skin, but don't get me wet'," he said on German television the other day.

Bernhard May, a foreign policy expert, said his mother, nearing 80, started shaking when she heard about the terrorist attacks.

"She was reminded what it was like in '39 when the Second World War started," he said. "Many of the older Germans, they still remember what war looks likes and they're afraid."

British troops

In a CNN interview, British Prime Minister Tony Blair was asked if Britain would take part militarily. "We've made it very clear that we stand side by side with the United States," he said.

Analysts said Washington probably would not need much fighting power from its European allies, but would be looking for assistance in intelligence-gathering, permission for overflights and logistical support.

"The United States will react initially, and they have the means to do that," said May, deputy director of the German Council on Foreign Policy in Berlin and head of its trans-Atlantic working group. "We Europeans, we don't have the means."

Britain, traditionally Washington's closest ally in Europe, would be the most likely to be called upon to contribute troops, possibly special forces, analysts said.

"They're the closest ally and they have an army structured for these types of operations," said Professor John Harper at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Bologna, Italy. *AP*

As Afghans flee, Bin Laden's men are training in Pakistan

(From page A1)

firing automatic rifles as they swing on ropes through trees and slide down from lofty heights.

The training could indicate practice for strikes from high-rise buildings, a type of action not yet seen in a militant attack.

Videos, photographs and maps that have been shared with US officials show the position of 25 of the larger training camps in Pakistan, interior ministry sources said. The maps show militant camps from northern Gilgit in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, where the Harkat-ul Mujahedeen and the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba are believed to train, to Muridke in the south.

The Harkat is a member of Bin Laden's international front for jihad against Christians and Jews, a senior Indian security official said. Indian intelligence officials say Lashkar-e-Tayyaba is funded by Bin Laden.

Looming disaster

The exodus continued from Kandahar, the southern base of the ruling Taliban where Bin Laden has a home, with more than half of some 200,000 residents having reportedly evacuated. Aid workers warned of a humanitarian disaster.

"If America attacks our homes, it is necessary for all Muslims, especially for Afghans, to wage a holy war," said Mullah Mohammed Hasan Akhund, the deputy Taliban leader, according to the Taliban-run Radio Shariat.

"God is on our side, and if the world's people try to set fire to Afghanistan, God will protect us and help us," he was quoted as saying.

But many Afghans are fleeing the likely scenes of the coming fire.

Thousands of people were arriving at checkpoints and crossings along the Pakistani border, while others were being turned back by Taliban roadblocks as desperate families streamed out of areas known as Bin Laden's hideouts.

Shopkeepers in this capital city began taking precautions against looting, and residents expressed growing fears of a breakdown in law and order should the Taliban crack under the threat of US military might.

Afghan aid workers, left behind to manage the massive international relief effort following the pullout of foreign staff last week, were being told to stay home, leaving thousands of Afghanistan's poorest without their only lifeline to humanitarian assistance.

"It appears that significant movements of people are continuing out of Kandahar but from Kabul and Jalalabad (in the northeast) I gather that the Taliban have put up roadblocks to stop people from moving," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesperson Yusuf Hassan.

He said the United Nations was working on emergency contingency plans to deal with the deepening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, where some 900,000 people have already become displaced over the past 12 months due to a severe drought and the ongoing civil war between the Taliban and opposition forces.

"Our emergency teams have arrived and they have immediately gone into a session to chalk out a plan and look at what we have available," Hassan said.

Most people have been fleeing from Kandahar as well as Jalalabad, where Bin Laden is believed to have a communications base in a nearby cave system.

The United Nations last week warned that some 1.5 million Afghans could be forced to leave their homes in search of food following the pullout of aid workers last week.

Ulama's decision

The grand council of Islamic clerics was scheduled to meet here yesterday to discuss an ultimatum delivered on Monday by a Pakistani delegation. The ultimatum was blunt: Either hand over Bin Laden or be attacked by a multinational military force, led by the United States.

"About 300 ulama (clerics) have already arrived. We expect about 700, and we hope we can start later this afternoon (Tuesday)," said Mullah Hamdullah Nomani, the city mayor and convenor of the grand council. The council includes clerics from across the country and is summoned whenever the Taliban government wants help in making key decisions.

The Taliban, a hardline Islamic militia that rules according to a strict interpretation of the Koran, have been placed under economic sanctions twice by the United Nations to press an earlier US demand that they hand over Bin Laden for trial on terrorist charges.

But the Taliban have consistently refused, calling Bin Laden a "guest" and saying that to hand him over to non-Muslims would betray a tenet of Islam.

Within hours of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, the Taliban's foreign minister, Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil, condemned the violence and said that it would have been impossible for Bin Laden to carry out the assaults because he doesn't have the facilities for such an elaborate operation.

Since then, the Taliban's leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, who also has declared himself Amir-ul-Momineen, or head of the Muslims, has defended Bin Laden and accused the United States of pointing the finger in his direction because its investigators have been unable to come up with a real suspect.

"The accusations against Osama bin Laden are baseless and a pretext to attack Afghanistan," the state-run news agency said yesterday.

Taliban's conditions

In talks with the Pakistani delegation, Taliban leaders discussed conditions for the possible extradition of Bin Laden to a country other than the United States, a Pakistan government source said yesterday.

The conditions, including international recognition of the Taliban government, were discussed in a meeting Monday in southern Kandahar, the headquarters of the Islamic militia that rules most of Afghanistan, the official said on condition of anonymity.

No final agreement was reached and the delegation returned to Pakistan, he said.

Another condition was the lifting of UN sanctions imposed to press the Taliban to hand over Bin Laden.

The suicide terrorist attacks, and the responses of Taliban and the United States, have left the foreign community in Pakistan nervous, and several multinational companies have evacuated their international staff because of concerns over possible violence.

Even though no attacks have been reported, the US Embassy in Islamabad said Tuesday that the US government has authorized its non-essential embassy staff members and their families to evacuate Pakistan amid fears of possible violence and terrorist strikes against Americans.

Guerrilla video

The high-quality video obtained by Indian officials, shot with a tripod and zoom lens, showed the guerrillas—dressed in green fatigues, tennis shoes, and black masks—armed with AK-series automatic rifles and shouting "God is Great!" and "Long live holy war!" in forest clearings of the mountainous areas of Chakoti, Akora Khattak and Muzaffarabad in Pakistan territory.

As dozens watched squatting on the ground, one young boy fired from a shoulder-fired grenade launcher and then fled backward in a wall of smoke. Six men in fatigues emerged one after another from small barrack-style tents, firing away at a single target as they ran backward. Several somersaulted through fire, crossed a series of burning wooden obstacles, and crawled under a tunnel of netting.

As a hefty, bearded instructor shouted: "Come on, well done!" men climbed trees with their weapons and crawled along taut, jute ropes.

Using metal hooks like mountain climbers, they maneuvered in phases down the ropes, swinging in the air as they fired their assault rifles at targets on the ground.

According to interrogation reports of arrested militants, training at these camps is provided by former Pakistani Army officers or Afghan veterans of the decade-long war against the former Soviet Union, which ended in 1989 with the Soviets withdrawing.

The Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and the Al-Badr—both shown training in the camps near Afghanistan—are among a dozen Islamic militant groups that operate out of Pakistan, fighting to separate the Himalayan region of Kashmir from India. Since gaining independence in 1947, Pakistan and India have fought three wars, two of them over the mostly Muslim region divided between them.

Pakistan's government calls Lashkar-e-Tayyaba and other groups based in Pakistan and fighting in Kashmir "freedom fighters," not terrorists. Pakistan supports their cause but gives them no material aid, the government says.

Many of these militant groups have exulted over the terror attacks, using them as an opportunity to exhort their members to further action.

From a mountaintop in Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, a Lashkar-e-Tayyaba functionary sang loudly Friday night on Radio Free Kashmir: "We have seen Russia break up/We have seen America burn/Now we will see India in pieces/Mujahideen! Mujahideen!" *AFP, AP*

Macapagal told to crush Abu Sayyaf first

(From page A1)

along the same line.

"The Armed Forces of the Philippines can't even find a solution to the Abu Sayyaf problem, which has been plaguing the country for over a year now," he said. "The President should first clean her own backyard before even presuming that she can help other governments clean up theirs."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the Philippines could send troops for the global anti-terrorism campaign "like we send an ill-equipped team of soldiers who were mowed down by the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan."

He was referring to the soldiers killed in the siege on the town of Lamitan, where the Abu Sayyaf seized a church and a hospital early in June.

The soldiers attributed the high casualty rate to their lack of ammunition and logistical support.

"Mass slaughter awaits our troops who will go there without weapons and communication equipment," Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff, said at a news briefing.

"The Philippine government's success in defeating the Abu Sayyaf is a defeat of international terrorism," he said, adding that this would be the country's biggest contribution to the global effort to cut down Bin Laden and his network of supporters worldwide.

The US State Department has listed the Abu Sayyaf among the 28 terrorist groups ***(see chart on page A1)*** that haveallegedly received funding and logistics from Bin Laden.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, challenged AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva to cause the immediate arrest of all the leaders of the Abu Sayyaf.

Sen. Ralph Recto said the biggest concern of the Philippine government should be to destroy Bin Laden's "fans club and detachment in Basilan."

He said there was no need to hunt terrorists abroad because there was a "homegrown variety" here.

"We can participate in the global effort to crush Osama bin Laden by going after his terrorist cells here, the one that has taken American hostages," he said.

Recto also said the Philippines would be placed in an "embarrassing situation" if it would be "so gung-ho" in hunting Bin Laden "when it cannot even slap (Abu Sayyaf spokesperson) Abu Sabaya on the wrist."

Handicap

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. also expressed doubt that the AFP could effectively contribute to the anti-terrorism campaign given its "handicap in terms of weaponry and other equipment."

Instead of the Philippines sending troops abroad, he said it was the US government that should provide the AFP the necessary military equipment to finish off the Abu Sayyaf.

Pimentel also said that if the United States considered the Abu Sayyaf "part of the infrastructure of terrorism," then "it is to our and their national interest to help us with this problem."

Bayan Muna's Beltran said the President's statement condemning the terrorist attacks and condoling with the American people should be sufficient.

"Any more effort by Malacañang should be construed as plain *paninipsip* (buttering up)," he said. "The President would only be trying to impress Washington, and it would be a pathetic gesture at the least."

Beltran also said the US government should not be allowed access to Subic and Clark because this would turn the Philippines into one of the launching pads of "American terrorism."

"By gearing for an all-out, full-scale war against terrorists, the US government is endangering the lives of millions of civilians in the nations it assumes to be harboring terrorists," he said, adding:

"The Philippines should not contribute even a drop of oil to fuel the US government's war machinery."

Heinous crime

Other members of the House wondered about the extent of Philippine participation in the US-led war.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Anne Rosales strongly opposed allowing the use of the former US bases in Clark and Subic, and cited the absence of a law that would support this.

Rosales said the assault on American soil was "an attack by terrorists with a global network, not an act of war by any government on the US."

Therefore, she said, it should be considered "a heinous crime that should be addressed as a police matter." And since it involved perpetrators probably located in several countries, "the approach should be multilateral and unilateral," and perhaps coordinated by the United Nations.

Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra said there was "a world of difference" between the President's expression of support to the anti-terrorism campaign and her explicit offering of Clark and Subic.

He said the first was a prerogative of the Executive, but the second was "not solely for the President to decide."

"The President should not fear that her request will be rejected (in Congress). There will be a bipartisan effort to support any Philippine participation (in the anti-terrorism campaign) if this serves the national interest," Mitra said.

Negros Oriental Rep. Apolinario Lozada, chair of the House committee on foreign relations, said he would file a resolution asking Congress to concur with the President's offer.

"(Her) stand on this matter is within the context of the Constitution. Besides, the country is bound by international treaty obligations," Lozada said.

He said that as a UN member, the Philippines could "mobilize combat troops to join the international coalition under the UN Security Council resolution if the need arises."

Enemies

In Davao City, church leaders and activists expressed wariness of the President's decision to give the US government access to Philippine air and seaports.

Speaking at yesterday's Inter-Faith Solidarity Conference initiated by the Bishops-Ulama Forum, Bishop Felixberto Calang of the Philippine Independent Church said the decision could earn the country "unnecessary enemies."

"Military might will not solve the problem of terrorism, but will only perpetuate it," he said.

Aleem Elias Macarandas, representative of the Ulama League of the Philippines, echoed Calang's view, saying: "We cannot solve terrorism (with) another (act of) terrorism."

Alvin Luque, Bayan Muna secretary general for Mindanao, said using violence in reaction to violence would be "senseless."

"The terrorist attacks on the US were just the tip of the iceberg. What we do not see is the cause of terrorism," he said.

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla said he was supporting the government's decision to extend help to the United States, "but we will not agree to the use of violence."

Calang also expressed the belief that the attacks were "not motivated by any religious conflict."

"This act goes against the teachings of Islam, Christianity and other faiths that preach peace and love among people. This act has no place in a society, which purports to be civilized and human," the conference participants said in a statement.

Eduardo Ermita, the President's adviser on the peace process, said her administration's support for the anti-terrorism campaign was borne out of civility, morality and principle, and not motivated by religion and ethnic considerations, political expediency, or blind loyalty.

Ermita said there could never be peace "unless we resolve the specter of terrorism, as well as its root causes in the political, social, cultural and economic perimeters of society."

In Cebu City, former Ambassador to Washington Ernesto Maceda backed the President's "all-out support" to the United States. Maceda said in an interview over dyLA that the Philippines should support the US anti-terrorism campaign for its own protection and defense.

If the United States succeeds in its mission, he said the terrorists in the Philippines would no longer get support from Bin Laden's group.

Protect OFWs

But in Manila, other activists urged the President to direct her administration's efforts to protecting the lives of Filipinos working in countries that might be affected by the US counterattacks.

There are about 750,000 Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia; 100,000 in the United Arab Emirates; 35,000 in Kuwait; 32,000 in Qatar; 28,000 in Oman; 24,000 in Bahrain; 21,000 in Lebanon; 16,000 in Libya; 9,000 in Israel; 500 in Iran; and about 100 in Iraq.

"The Philippine government should ensure the safety of millions of overseas contract workers in the Middle East," Pamalakaya chair Rodolfo Sambajon said a statement.

"The President prioritizes puppetry to the United States and grand betrayal of national sovereignty over patriotism and state care for millions of Filipino workers abroad," he said.

The Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) described the administration as a "fence-sitter" when it came to issues affecting the Filipino people but a "total puppet of US imperialists in their warmongering ways." ***With reports from Volt Contreras and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; Anthony Allada, Joel Escovilla and Dennis Jay Santos PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Lopez orders Abap revamp

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOPEZ

A REVAMP is in the offing in the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines following the national boxers' shocking failure in the recent Southeast Asian Games, according to Abap president Manny Lopez.

Still fuming mad over what he termed as "humiliating" showing in the Kuala Lumpur SEAG, Lopez said he needs to overhaul the lineup of national boxers and coaches aside from implementing new programs for the association.

He said the team probably felt the pressure to produce gold medals, being the traditional gold medal machine for the RP contingent. He also admitted that Thailand sent a powerhouse team "with better tactics than us."

The Thais hauled seven golds in boxing, while the Nationals only came up with two silvers and two bronzes.

"They were able to scout us thoroughly," said Lopez. "Everybody looks up to us as a strong team, that's why they ganged up on us."

However, Lopez maintained that the boxers were well-prepared going to the SEA Games and that their development program is still sound and abreast with international standards.

"I just can't understand why we were able to perform very well in international events and fare poorly in the SEA Games," Lopez said, referring to three foreign tournaments where the boxers took part.

He added that the Philippines won two golds in the Greece Open, one gold in the Cuba Open and a bronze in the World Championship in Ireland this year, fielding the same set of boxers and coaches.

The Greece and Ireland tournaments lured at least 80 countries each, including SEAG rivals Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam, Lopez said.

"I don't know what happened, I'm also surprised at our performance although there were matches where judging was really questionable," he added.

Lopez said they are starting to pick up the pieces from the Kuala Lumpur disaster by launching a vigorous grassroots development, starting off with the staging of the National Open next month in Naga City.

Trinidad-Hopkins title tiff Sept. 30

UNDEFEATED WBA champion Felix "Tito" Trinidad goes for the undisputed middleweight title of the world against IBF and WBC champion Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins on Sunday, Sept. 30 (Manila Time) in Madison Square Garden, New York.

Postponed for two weeks due to the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorists' attacks, Trinidad will have his chance to prove once more that he is the best pound-for-pound boxer today.

Trinidad, who dismantled former champ William Joppy in just five rounds, to take the middleweight title, will be staking his unblemished slate of 40 wins, 33 by knockouts, against the hard-hitting Hopkins.

The Puerto Rican boxer is, undeniably, the hottest boxer in the world after scoring convincing wins over big name stars such as former IBF champion Pernell Whitaker, former WBA super welterweight titlist David Reid, Mamadou Thiam and Fernando Vargas, the former IBF 154 lbs. champion.

But what probably propelled his career into new heights is a convincing win over the erstwhile golden boy of boxing Oscar dela Hoya via a unanimous decision.

Hopkins, however, is unfazed by Trinidad's reputation. He even guaranteed that Puerto Rico would have its national flag at half-mast after he delivers Trinidad's first-ever defeat and the bragging rights as the world's undisputed middleweight king.

The Philadelphia-born champion raised his stock after annexing the WBC belt at the expense of then champion Keith Holmes in 12 rounds. Equally impressive is the fact that nine of the last 13 title defenses he made have come by knockouts.

Hopkins boasts a record of 39 wins, 2 losses, 1 draw with 28 knockouts.

The victor in the Trinidad-Hopkins showdown will become the first undisputed middleweight king since Marvelous Marvin Hagler held the distinction from 1979 to 1987.

Noted boxing expert Hermie Rivera and journalist Al Mendoza will annotate the fight which will be telecast live by RPN-9 starting at 9:30 a.m.

RP bridge players win

THE PHILIPPINES posted a 1-2 finish in the open pair event of the 23rd Asean Bridge Club Championship held at the Dusit Hotel Nikko Makati City recently.

Viksi Egan and Chot Reyes finished first, followed by the Gerry Alquiros-Albert Quiogue tandem as the Filipinos broke the stranglehold of the Thais in the event held Sept. 9-13.

Thailand topped the mixed team, open team and ladies team events at the expense of the Philippines. Indonesia, on the other hand, prevailed in the youth team competition, besting Thailand.

The Philippines' Carreon Team, which wound up second to BBC of Thailand in the mixed team category, is composed of Sylvia Alejandro, Zaya Hada, Rose Unson and Nonot Carreon.

Codiñera chess

THE 9TH annual Codiñera Memorial Chess Tournament will be held on Sept. 30 at the 2/F Center Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan.

TOKYO BOUT

Peñalosa makes 'weight,' raring to fight

By Al S. Mendoza

PEÑALOSA (extreme left) getting some pointers from his brother, Dodie Boy (a former world champion himself), during a break in training at the Cantada Boxing Gym in Bicutan. Watching are Peñalosa's manager lawyer Rudy Salud (second from left) and Edgardo "Boy" Cantada. JESS YUSON

GERRY Peñalosa, who will fight for the World Boxing Council crown in Tokyo on Monday (Sept. 24), has gained without any hitch the "five percent" of the required weight needed one week before the scheduled bout.

"Perfect," said lawyer Rudy Salud, Peñalosa's manager. "We are well within target. And you know what? Gerry's raring to fight. *Handang-handa na.*"

Peñalosa, who challenges Japan's Masamori Tokuyama for the superflyweight title in a scheduled 12-rounder, weighed 119 pounds on Monday at the Games and Amusements Board offices.

"He easily hit his targeted weight when he had the weigh-in at 11:30 a.m.," said Salud. "And yet, he had an almost full breakfast at 10:30 after his regular workout and morning nap."

Peñalosa made the grade in the presence of new GAB chair Eduardo Villanueva.

The WBC rule states that a challenger must weigh between 119 and 120.5 pounds or five percent beyond that of the 115-pound limit one week before the fight.

Villanueva forwarded yesterday the result of Peñalosa's weigh-in to the WBC headquarters in Mexico City and to the offices of the Japan Boxing Commission in Tokyo.

"Again, we credit Gerry's weight monitoring to Dr. Orbeta (Sanirose)," said Salud. "Dr. Orbeta has been doing wonders to Gerry since she became Gerry's dietician and nutritionist some two years ago. Not only is Gerry's weight taken care of properly but also his diet. His diet has produced an amazing power in his legs and punches, which was considerably strengthened because of his carbohydrate-rich meals. Even Gerry's ration of water has been increased to at least 12 glasses a day."

Salud brought Peñalosa to Orbeta after the Filipino southpaw lost in his second bid to wrest the world crown from Korean In Joo Cho last year, also on points.

Peñalosa had complained in that fight that he felt sluggish as the fight wore on. The culprit was a pre-fight diet termed faulty by Orbeta. It was a diet almost bereft of carbohydrates but rich in protein.

Since Salud forged the Orbeta-Peñalosa team-up in January 2000, Peñalosa has beaten all his last three opponents by knockout—two in Manila and one in Seoul. The last victory came only last May via a stunning first-round knockout of former world champion Keichi Yamaguchi, the man who dethroned Cho for the WBC title. Cho was the same Korean who beat Peñalosa twice for the world title.

"Our Gerry is again ripe for the world crown," said Salud, whose reign as PBA commissioner in the '80s was marked by record-breaking gate receipts and league revenues. "We've done everything to prepare him for the Tokyo fight. As I said, Gerry has always been a world champ material. That faith hasn't waned one bit."

Aside from his two setbacks on points against Cho in 1998 and 2000, the 29-year-old Peñalosa's other defeat was at the hands of Filipino Samuel Duran in a bantamweight bout. He also lost on points. Peñalosa's 40-3-1, win-loss-draw record includes 27 knockouts.

In his crack anew at the world crown this Monday, one thing seems to be going Peñalosa's way: It was also in Tokyo that Peñalosa won his first world title in 1997.

Riviera golfers advance

RIVIERA virtually clinched a quarterfinals seat after a 3-1 victory over Sta. Elena even as Manila Golf and CDC Mimosa boosted their own bids entering the homestretch of 2001 Federation Golf League in various courses.

Comm. Danny Pizarro and Bobby Celestino sparked the Riviera victory with an easy win in the aggregate format before Paul Salvador-Eric Escalona and Bobby Inigo-Poppie Paguia followed suit with wins of their own.

Riviera, winner of the first two editions of the meet, thus joined Southwoods, which saw its five-match winning streak stopped by also-ran Eastridge, in the next round.

Canlubang stalled Alabang's outright entry with a 2-2 draw built around a rousing 7&5 triumph by Abe Rosal and Mon Regala in high-low.

Also winning for Canlubang were Mari Hechanova-Jose Ramon Yulo (scramble) while Alabang evened up matters through Seve Roxas Chua-Raffy Mapua (best ball) and Vic Guzman-Edwin Arcilla (aggregate).

Manila Golf took a big step toward a stint in the next round when it repeated over Valley.

Former national player Alex Prieto and cousin Mike needed only 11 holes to win the aggregate match and the tandems of Arsenic Laurel-Manoling Chan Jr. (bestball) and JP Reyes-Joey Yujuico (high-low) completed the rout by turning back their opponents.

In a big upset, Eastridge rode on the heroics of King Sumulong-Roy Fradillada, Chino Raymundo-Edmund Yee and Dennis Nicomedes-Francis Calma to hand Southwoods its first loss.

Wack Wack's march was also stalled by Mimosa when both teams battled to a 2-2 draw in Angeles City. Rep. Jack Duavit and Marlon Dizon pulled off an easy win but Mimosa proved to be a tough nut to crack.

Omar Dungca and Raymund Co broke even by taking the best ball match and Mimosa seemed on the way to an upset when Jun Juan and Jae Vincent Flores took aggregate. High-low partners Jun Jacinto and Joselito Santos, however, rose to the occasion for Wack Wack.

Aguilar retains motocross crown

THE NATIONAL Motocross Super Series 2001 came to a fitting end Sunday with defending champions Glen Aguilar and Kenneth San Andres of Caltex-KTM and Ralph Alvarez of Negros Occidental bagging the title in their respective categories at the Eastborough Place.

Aguilar survived a near-disastrous finish to rule the centerpiece pro open and pro 125 categories before a wildly cheering crowd which stayed until late Sunday afternoon to watch the season-ending race organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. and actor-sportsman Richard Gomez.

The multi-awarded campaigner from Las Piñas suffered back to back losses to Jovie Saulog and Ernie Leongson of Shell Yamaha for the second time in three weeks, but managed to retain the title by virtue of his previous victories in the seven-part series. Sponsors are WG&A, Smart, PLDT, Bench, Norkis-Yamaha, Access Plus, Dreambikes, Agua Vida, Transtainer System and Seagull Glassworks.

Overall, Aguilar finished with 244 points against the 209 points of Leongson and 186 points of 1999 Rider of the Year" awardee Jing Leongson also of Shell-Yamaha.

Zanardi stable

BERLIN—Doctors performed a routine follow-up operation on Alex Zanardi Monday, saying the two-time CART champion was stable but not out of danger after a gruesome crash two days ago that shocked even racing veterans. "In the moment, he's stable, don't get me wrong. But it could change at any moment. It's too early to say if he's out of danger," said Walter Schaffartzik, head of a team of physicians that are treating the 34-year-old race driver.

Woods wrecks schedule

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—World golf No. 1 Tiger Woods won't set foot in New Zealand for four months but he's already helping reshape the domestic sports calendar.

Woods' participation in the Jan. 10-13 New Zealand Golf Open at Paraparaumu Beach near Wellington has forced New Zealand Cricket officials to revise the schedule for a provincial limited-overs series.

A match between Canterbury and Wellington which coincided with the New Zealand Open has been rescheduled because all accommodation in Wellington is booked for the duration of the golf tournament. *AP*

Katigbak ace

COL. Nicetas Katigbak scored his first-ever hole-in-one last Friday at the picturesque Malarayat golf course in Lipa City. Katigbak, a nine-handicapper, aced the 165-yard, par-3 Mt. Makulot hole No. 8, using a Honma 708 6-iron and a Titleist Pro-Vi ball. He was in a foursome with Laguna Rep. Boyie San Luis, Abe Avena and Jose Quiocho. Katigbak is an incumbent director of the Malarayat golf club.

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5-stag derby tonight

EXCITING and bloody encounters will be seen today with the holding of the JRS Spectrum 5-Stag Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

Hosted by well-known and respected cocker Jun Sevilla, this derby will be participated in by cockers from Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Among those who confirmed their participation were lawyer Rudy Salud, Vic Yu, William Co, Boyet Plaza, Gerry Ramos, Boy Gamilla, Sonny Lagon, Peping Suarez, lawyer Joey Mendoza and many others.

Promoter Danny Ty announced that strict screening and submission of weights between 1.7 kg and 2.1 kg will be on the day of the derby from 6-11 a.m.

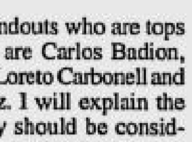
He also said that stags would be matched according to their categories.

Other 5-stag derbies scheduled at Roligon are Sept. 29—BMJ by Boy Gamilla, Oct. 1—Blue Blade by Sonny Lagon and Oct. 5—Joshua by Peping Suarez and lawyer Joey Mendoza.

Whatever happened to the Hall of Fame?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



I DON'T hear quite so much these days of the once highly visible Joe Zubiri, a longtime friend who launched with much fanfare the National Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999. My assumption is that Zubiri, a former three-time congressman, is busy nowadays performing his job as governor of Bukidnon. At any rate, many have been asking me: Whatever happened to the Hall of Fame? Will there be another induction ceremony this year?

Frankly, I don't know the answer, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed that Zubiri will not disappoint the sports fans, the basketball crowd in particular, by hosting a similar induction ceremony this year honoring the country's outstanding basketball players of the past whose achievements will make us forever proud to be Filipinos.

During the inaugural induction ceremony held last Jan. 25, 1999, the legendary Carlos "Caloy" Loyzaga even flew all the way from Australia to lead the first batch of 11 extraordinary inductees. Aside from Loyzaga, the others enshrined in the Hall of Fame were Sen. Ambrosio Padilla, Fely Fajardo, Charles Borck, Tony Genato, Jacinto Ciria Cruz, Primitivo Martinez, Ramoncito Campos, Edgardo Ocampo, Gabby Fajardo and Narciso Bernardo. Then in the second induction night on Sept. 12, 2000, the late Lauro "The Fox" Mumar led the roll of honor together with Francisco Vestil, Rafael Hechanova and Pocholo Martinez.

For the third batch of nominees, there are four standouts who are tops in my list. They are Carlos Badion, Kurt Bachmann, Loreto Carbonell and Alfonso Marquez. I will explain the reasons why they should be considered in a future piece. Incidentally, for the information of those who are wondering why Robert Jaworski and Ramon Fernandez did not make the original roster of nominees, the answer is simple: Both are not yet eligible under the rule which states that a nominee must have retired from active play for at least 10 years. Because Jaworski and Fernandez have stopped playing only recently, they have to wait for a few more years before they could qualify for nomination.

* * *

WELCOME HOME! I doff my hat to the stout-hearted members of the Philippine delegation, especially that track and field athletes and Patafa president Go Teng Kok, for a job well done in the recent 21st Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur. Spearheaded by ageless Elma Muros-Posadas and diminutive Eduardo Buenavista, the athletics team, also known as GTK Army, proved the cynics wrong by winning eight gold medals.

US baseball resumes

NEW YORK—Baseball was awash in red, white and blue and patriotic songs Monday night when games resumed and flag-waving fans returned, ready to pick up where they left off six days ago - when cheering came easier. From Montreal to St. Louis, from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, the crack of the bat was a welcome sound in a setting that offered decidedly different snapshots than it did before the terrorist attacks on America. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Jordan makes comeback

NEW YORK — He's back! He's back! Oops, well, he's almost back. For 90 minutes Monday, Michael Jordan was listed as an active player for the Washington Wizards on the team's Web site. Apparently, someone pressed a button a little too soon. "Just a clerical error," NBA spokesman Tim Frank said. "Our Internet department was making preparations in case he comes back." *AP*

US TERROR ATTACKS

Tanduay import backs out

MENK (left): Doubtful starter. FILE PHOTO

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
5:05 p.m.—Red Bull vs Swift
7:10 p.m.—Tanduay vs Sta. Lucia

BY JUNE NAVARRO

EVEN the PBA wasn't spared of the jarring aftermath of the recent terrorist attacks in the United States.

And Tanduay is expected to be affected after its replacement for the injured Maurice Bell refused to board a plane bound for Manila yesterday.

Mark Karcher, a Temple University alumnus who played in the International Basketball League, was said to have backed out at the last minute, citing personal problems and the risk of travelling out of the US.

As a result, the Rhummasters, who will collide with unbeaten Sta. Lucia Realty at 7:10 p.m., are expected to push their depleted lineup to the limit.

Bell injured his right shoulder after a collision with Swift's Poch Juinio underneath the basket during their match on Friday which the Rhummasters won, 96-93.

Tanduay officials confirmed Bell would be sidelined for at least two weeks.

Eric Menk, Jason Webb and Jeffrey Cariaso, who suffered various injuries in the Rhummasters' past two games, remain as doubtful starters.

Without a reinforcement and key players to boot, Tanduay would most likely be an easy prey for the Realtors, who are looking for a third consecutive victory after toppling Swift and powerhouse Batang Red Bull, respectively.

The Thunder will try to erase the stigma of their opening-game debacle against the Panthers in the curtain-raiser.

The Panthers, who have a workhorse of an import in Rossel Ellis, have yet to enter the win-column along with Alaska at 0-2.

Campus Tour a hit

THE COLLEGE-HOPPING activity Rexona-PBA Ultimate Challenge Campus Tour proved to be a smash hit as thousands of students flocked the venues, resulting in a modest haul in funds for the schools' respective athletics programs.

The 10-leg series played to jampacked crowds in Santo Tomas, FEU, La Salle, Ateneo, UM, UP, UE, Lyceum, Philippine Christian and Letran, raising sums that benefitted the training programs of athletes of these schools while at the same time taking the Philippine Basketball Association and its teams closer to its fans.

Rexona bankrolled the undertaking together with the support of Hanford, and along with the PBA also gave away a P10,000 donation to each school aside from the tickets sold at the respective school's box-offices.

Stags, Cards score; Final 4 tomorrow

GAMES TOMORROW (Final Four)
1:30p.m.—SSC vs Mapua (srs)
5:30p.m.—JRU vs St. Benilde (srs)

BY JUNE NAVARRO

SAN Sebastian College and Mapua Tech posted contrasting victories over equally talented rivals to secure Final Four slots at the end of eliminations yesterday in NCAA men's basketball.

The Stags ripped San Beda College, 84-69, while the Cardinals downed Letran, 62-55.

Runners-up last season, the Stags got another shot at the title after cornering the second spot in the semifinals.

But they will have to do it against the Cardinals, who copped the No. 3 slot, when both squads start their Final Four campaign on Thursday.

Although they both finished similar 8-5 records, the Stags will enjoy the benefit of a twice-to-beat edge by virtue of a better quotient over the Cardinals in all of their first-round victories.

The Knights closed out their campaign at 6-8 for a fifth-place finish while the Red Lions were crowned as the league's newest whipping boys after finishing last at 2-12.

College of St. Benilde snatched the last semifinals ticket after beating Jose Rizal University, 84-74, in the other game.

Scores:

SSC 84—Macapagal 25, Alfad 12, Najorda 12, Moore 9, De Leon 7, Uy 4, Gonzales 4, Falcasantos 4, Reguerra 4, Baluyot 2, Legarde 1, Nadela 0, Mercado 0, Morales 0.

SBC 69—Reroma 15, Cordero 12, Bombeo 10, Hudencial 9, Oliveros 8, Velasco 3, Juco 3, Lumen 3, Casio 2, Manding 2, Weber 2, Erestain 0.

Quarters: 25-25, 44-40, 69-48, 84-69

Negros, San Juan collide; MBA to honor RP cagers

GAMES TODAY
(San Juan Gym)
3:00 p.m.—Socsargen vs Laguna
5:30 p.m.—Negros vs San Juan

SECOND PHASE

Standings	W	L
Nueva Ecija	2	0
LBC Batangas	2	0
FedEx Laguna	0	1
Cebuana Lhuillier	0	1
Socsargen	0	2
Andok's San Juan	x	x
Negros	x	x
Davao	x	x

BY ROY LUARCA

THEY were together in defending the Philippine men's basketball crown in the just-concluded Southeast Asian Games. Now, they have to part ways and play against each other once again.

Chris Calaguio, Chito Victolero and Omanzie Rodriguez return to Andok's San Juan's fold and will be facing fellow Nationals John Ferriols, Jomar Tierra and Ruben dela Rosa of Negros when the MBA Second Phase resumes today.

The Knights-Slashers tussle is set at 5:30 p.m., following the 3 p.m. opener between FedEx Laguna and Socsargen at the San Juan Gym.

In-between, the Philippine Team will be honored for its successful defense of the SEA Games basketball title in Kuala Lumpur.

The players and coaching staff, including team manager Bert Lina, will be given leis by MBA officials led by Multi-Regional Board Inc. chair and president Santi Araneta and commissioner Butch Antonio.

The MBA took a two-week break to allow some of its stars and coaches to represent the country in the biennial meet.

Though Andok's San Juan has beaten Negros in the First Phase finals and last year's national championships, the Slashers remain a dangerous opponent owing to their offensive might. The Knights, however, will assume the favorite's role owing to their homecourt edge.

Aside from his three national players, Andok's San Juan coach Philip Cezar will also be banking on Rafi Reavis, Danny Capobres and Gilbert Castillo as the Knights try to assert their mastery of the Slashers.

After steering the Philippine team to the SEAG title, coach Boyzie Zamar now faces the challenge of lifting Socsargen out of the doldrums.

The Marlins, cellar-dwellers in the First Phase, dropped their first two games and are certain to encounter rough sailing against the stronger Lakers.

Zamar, however, is hopeful that Bong Alvarez, Alvin Teng and RP Team member Egay Echavez would deliver to trigger the Marlins' resurgence.

The Lakers of coach Bonnie Garcia will drew firepower from Fil-Ams Chris Clay and Jeffrey Flowers with support coming from Biboy Simon, once the league's most prolific gunner.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

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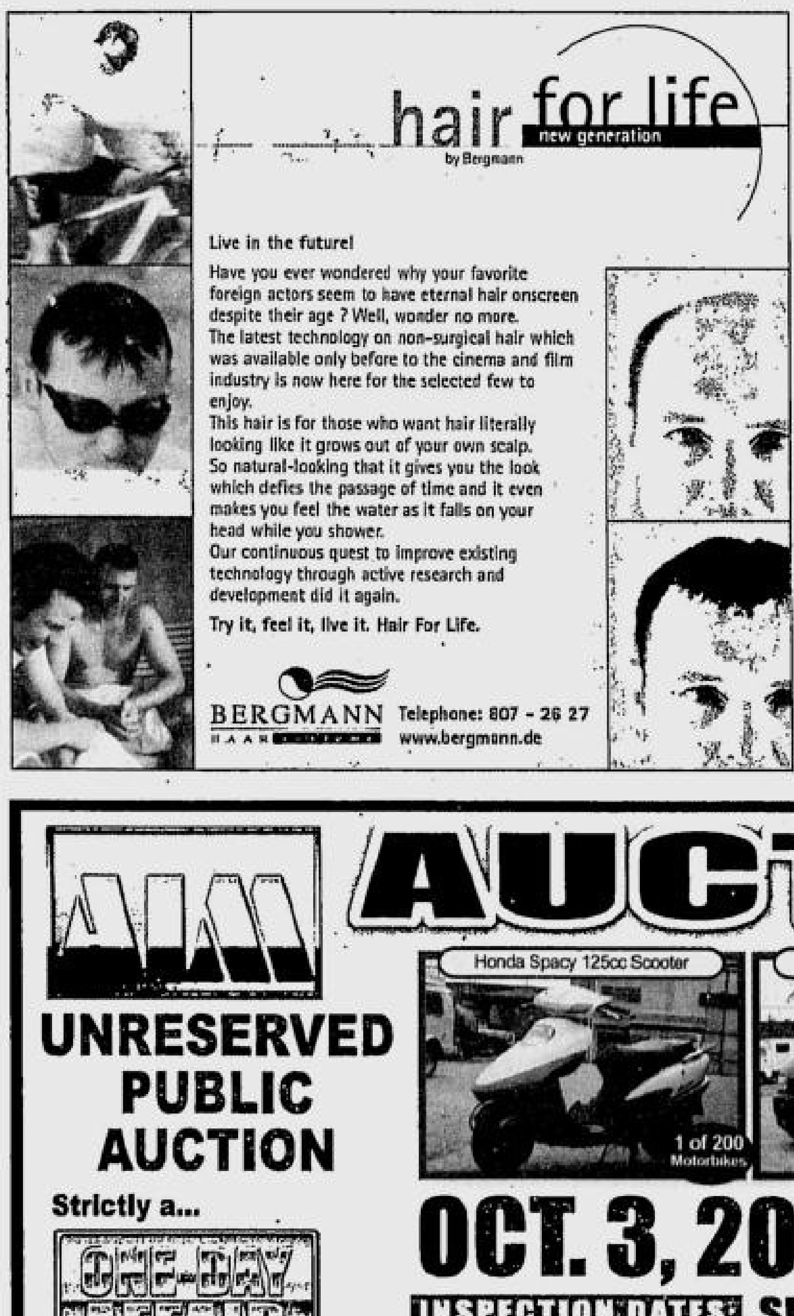

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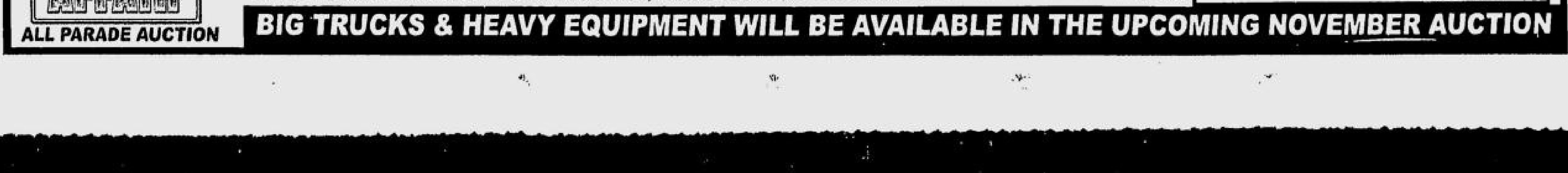

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AN IMPORTANT TEXT MESSAGE

To all Globe Handyphone Subscribers

We, at Globe Telecom, would like to advise our valued Globe Handyphone subscribers of the implementation of the reduction of free-text allocation, as earlier announced, via a two-step schedule.

Effective September 14, 2001 till the end of the year, pre-paid subscribers will continue to enjoy 100 free-text allocations. The next reduction will take effect next year on January 1, 2002. The table below shows the new schedule of free-text allocations for both pre-paid and post-paid subscribers:

	Prepaid	Advantage	Personal	Business	Executive	CEO
Original Allocation	150	400	900	1200	1800	2400
September 14, 2001*	100	270	600	800	1200	1600
January 1, 2002	50	135	300	400	600	800

* For post-paid subscribers, subject to 30-day notice.

In response to the concerns raised by our dear patrons, we decided weeks ago to modify the original implementation of our free-text allocation program. By staggering the schedule of implementation, our subscribers will continue to enjoy two-thirds of their free-text allocation until the end of the year. All charges for text messages in excess of the free-text allocation have not been increased. They remain at ₱0.50 and ₱1.00 per text.

Truly, the prevailing economic crisis affects us all, Globe included. The text reduction program was a way to manage the cost of operations without having to raise prices of voice calls and SMS. For Globe Telecom to remain a sound business and continue delivering the quality of service you deserve, we had to make this difficult decision.

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Metro dump trucks held in Bulacan A22
Truck kills 2 PPA men A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Young cop shot dead by soldier, 2 other men A22
Internal fight suspected in Antipolo blast A22

What's with the number 11, and other 'terror' text messages

By Leah Salterio

WHAT'S with the number 11 as far as the terrorist attacks on the United States are concerned?

Is it a brother and not Osama Bin Laden himself who is behind the attacks?

How did Sen. Ping Lacson "die" in New York?

Even before the smoke could begin to settle following the Tuesday morning plane attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington DC, mobile phones were buzzing and vibrating with the latest text messages, serious and otherwise, in the Philippines, the "texting capital of the world."

Most of the text messages, as usual, were jokes, while others were serious, even disturbing.

One such eerie text message revolved around the number 11 and how many times it occurred in the terrorism.

The message came in three installments and read: "Date of attack is 9/11 9+1+1 = 11. Sept. 11 is the 254th day of the year. 2+5+4 = 11. After Sept. 11, there are 111 days left to the end of the year.

"WTC luks lyk #11. D 1st plane 2 hit d towers was Flight 11. State of NY s d 11th state added 2 d Union. NY City has 11 letters. Afghanistan has 11 letters. Nostradamus has 11 letters.

"(1993 WTC bomber) Ramzi Yousef has 11 letters. Flight 11, 92 on board 9+2=11. Flight 77, 65 on board, 6+5=11. What a coincidence.

"But Jesus Christ also has 11 letters and He's d greatest of them all."

More about No. 11: "WTC had 110 flrs, just remove d 0 & ul c 11. The tower had 21,800 windows. 2+1+8+0+0=11."

Creative

The more creative texters took pains to make picture messages. One shows the twin towers being attacked by two moving planes, and ends with the message, "Condemn terrorism!"

In another, a plane is shown approaching, but the message ends with a *"Gud am lang po at di ako terorista!"*

Another plane message carries the invitation, *"Sama ka,* round-trip USA?"

A flying object shaped like a plane smashes into a tower. But the message reads, *"Akala mo atak? Lamok lang 'yan! Ingat pa rin baka may* dengue!"

Another plane brings this warning: "Trial *lang 'yan. 'Pag 'di ka nagbait, diretso sa* office *mo ang kasunod. B gud."*

Direct flight

Texters were quick to find humor in the involvement of Bin Laden in the attacks.

- "Sources say it's Bin Laden's bro who is behind d attacks. US gov't, however, s havin a hard tym tracing him coz of his ability 2 fly. Laden's bro s betr knwn as Al Laden."
- "D new york n washington bombings wer planned long ago nd d FBI now knows d mastermind. Dey r now hunting down Nostradamus."
- "Flash report: (Statue of) Liberty is missing, reportedly in hiding or submerged in water. *Natatakot na sya na ang susunod na bobombahin!"*
- "From an American Airlines commercial: Why waste time at the airport? American Airlines now flies directly to your office."
- "US: We r n nid of alliances 2 fyt d terrorists dat have handicapd us. We will hunt them even if it means WWIII. UK: wer on ur syd! China n japan: we hir 2 support! India and Pakistan: use r air space. *Pinas: kung san ka masaya te, suportahan ta ka!"*

Pinoy time

Filipinos abroad were also busy on their mobile phones, sending text messages about Bin Laden.

From an architect based in Singapore: "I was wondering if I could stay with u 4 a couple of days. Everybody's so angry at me & I really need a friend. Yours truly, Osama Bin Laden."

"There is no truth to the rumor that Bin Laden married Osang, that she is now Rosanna Bin Laden."

From an engineer in Vallejo, California: "There's no truth to the rumor that a Japanese architect designed the 2 towers of WTC & named them Nagasaki & Hiroshima."

The age-old Filipino habit of arriving late is said to have worked to the advantage of Pinoys working at the WTC in New York.

"Most of the Filipinos working on both buildings survived the tragedy," said one message. "Most of them were late reporting for work. Sometimes, Filipino time can save lives!"

Another message said Filipinos working at the Pentagon were all dead. "Dey wer sleeping

WHAT'S WITH/ A22

2 charged with vendor's rape-slay

By Philip C. Tubeza

TWO suspects in the rape and killing of a 13-year-old sampaguita vendor last Thursday were arrested on Monday and charged with rape with homicide before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Police arrested Jeffrey R. de Vega, 24, alias Mongoloid, a jeepney barker with no permanent address, and Emilio P. Arpon, 26, a parking attendant and resident of Novaliches, Quezon City, for the rape and killing of Marycel Geralde, of Antipolo City.

No bail was recommended for the temporary release of the two suspects.

But in a bizarre twist, one of the alleged witnesses to the rape and killing of the girl threatened to kill himself if police did not release Arpon, who according to him and other witnesses was innocent.

Parking attendant Ariel Villarin, 19, also of Quezon City, climbed a concrete post at the corner of Quezon and Roces avenues about 1 p.m. yesterday and threatened to hang himself from the post to protest Arpon's arrest.

"My conscience is troubling me because my friend is in jail," Villarin shouted to police negotiators.

The stunt Villarin pulled caused two minor traffic accidents in the area, police said. But after an hour of negotiations, Villarin came down from the post.

Police brought Villarin, some vendors, and several street children to the Kamuning police station for questioning.

But at the police station, Villarin changed his tune and said he tried to kill himself because of family problems. He also denied involvement in the vendor's rape and killing. He claimed he was in Laguna when it happened.

Police said Villarin could be high on rugby when he pulled his stunt.

But the street children, who were Geralde's companions in Quezon City after she ran away from home in Antipolo, were firm in their testimony that Arpon was innocent.

At the police station yesterday, they said Arpon only admitted the crime after the police beat him up. They said it was De Vega and three or four other men who raped and killed Geralde.

A 13-year-old girl, who stayed with Geralde at the vacant lot in Pantranco where the latter was raped and killed, said policemen "simply picked up" Arpon while he was sleeping inside a jeep.

"He confessed because they beat him up with a gun and threatened him," the girl said.

Geralde's father Marcel also told the INQUIRER on Sunday that one of the suspects was beaten up. But he maintained that witnesses positively identified the two suspects as among his daughter's attackers.

The 13-year-old girl also pointed to De Vega as one of the culprits.

"It was Mongoloid (De Vega, who did it)," the girl said. "He's really a maniac and would often talk dirty to us."

She said De Vega often fondled other street children.

The street children were placed in the care of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

LUPA
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GROWING UP HARD UP

With faces as grim as those of their elders, children of members of the urban poor group Pagkakaisa ng Maralita join a march to the National Housing Authority to ask the government agency and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to fulfill the promise she made in her State of the Nation Address and grant them the land they are occupying in Quezon City.

RANDY HORMILLOSA

Malonzo to form anti-terror council

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF YOU are a foreigner, especially if you're Arab-looking, beware.

Caloocan Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo yesterday announced he would form an anti-terrorism council that would monitor the presence and activities of suspected terrorists in the city.

Malonzo said the council would zero in on foreigners, especially those with Arabian features, who are either staying or who had just arrived in Caloocan.

Authorities would investigate if the foreigners have shadowy characters and links with suspected terrorists abroad, he said.

"We have to be very careful in dealing with foreigners in our community," he said. "A foreigner who looks harmless could be a terrorist."

Last week, a Muslim community in Caloocan City warned authorities against identifying Muslims as the "usual suspects" in any terrorist attack.

But Malonzo yesterday said the council would in fact coordinate with Muslim communities in Caloocan to prevent suspected terrorists from taking refuge in their areas.

Malonzo and Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Caloocan police chief, would head the council, which would be composed of representatives from the city's 188 barangays and Muslim communities.

The council would convene next week to discuss how it could specifically help the national government in battling terrorism.

Aside from monitoring foreigners, the council would also identify where suspected terrorists stay in the city, Malonzo said in a statement.

"Everyone should do (his) share in preventing criminal elements, particularly terrorists, from disrupting peace anywhere in the world," he said.

Malonzo himself volunteered his services as a commissioned officer in the Armed Forces' campaign against global terrorism.

Boulder kills girl, 11

AN 11-YEAR-OLD girl was killed while her 13-year-old sister was injured when a boulder rolled down from a mountain and slammed into their house in Antipolo City during heavy rains on Monday morning.

Glenda Ortele, of Barangay San Luis, Antipolo City, died immediately after being pinned by the boulder about 10 a.m.

Ortele's sister, Michelle, 13, was pulled out by witnesses and was brought to the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City for treatment of fractures in different parts of the body, local authorities said.

The Ortele sisters, who were attending the Painuman Elementary School, were preparing to leave for school when the boulder came rolling, authorities quoted neighbors as saying.

The neighbors said they heard a loud noise and were shocked to find out soon after that a boulder had fallen on the Ortele house.

The parents of the girls were not home when the accident happened.

Agnes Donato

GMA: Relocate Pandacan oil depot immediately

By Juliet L. Javellana
and Jerome Aning

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the immediate relocation of the oil depot of the major oil companies from Pandacan, Manila to either Batangas or Bataan province.

The President said the oil depot poses both environmental and national security risks to the nation's capital.

"Yes, there was a decision by the Executive branch, by the President (that) we have to move the Pandacan depot not really only for security reasons but for environmental reasons (as well)," Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said. "A lot of complaints have been made about the fumes that affect the nearby schools so it is both a fire hazard and a national security hazard."

The threat posed by the Pandacan oil depot was among the items discussed in yesterday's Cabinet meeting, where the overriding agenda was the impact of the terrorist attacks on the United States and the preparations for Manila's assistance to the US-led international coalition against terrorism.

Relocating the Pandacan oil depot became a serious issue after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington DC on Sept. 11.

The depot sits in a populated area dangerously close to Malacañang, the seat of power.

Tiglao said Energy Secretary Vince Perez had been meeting with officials of the major oil companies, whose oil supply is kept in the depot. He noted that Perez had already drafted a memorandum agreement to spell out the mechanics and the date of the relocation.

"Obviously, the biggest resistance by the oil companies would be the expense involved," Tiglao said.

But he said there could be a "win-win solution" because oil companies could command a good price for their Pandacan facilities if they decided to sell them.

"It's by the river, (where prospective buyers) could set up a mall or condominium so relocation is really not impossible," Tiglao said.

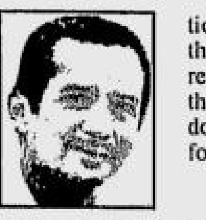
On Monday, the Department of Energy announced that it would be signing an agreement regarding the depot phaseout with the major oil companies.

In Manila, the City Council yesterday voted unanimously to put an end to the operations of the Pandacan oil depot complex within six months and complete the phaseout in two years.

TIGLAO

Now, will you dare gamble on Go Teng Kok?

BARE EYE



Recah Trinidad

WHOEVER dares sign up Go Teng Kok for a lead role in a movie must be committing financial suicide.

Yes, Go does dress up like a matinee idol, in shiny, expensive white attire, thick gold necklace and bracelet, the works.

But because movie heroes are supposed to possess good looks, GTK — that's how friends and enemies call him — definitely doesn't fit the role.

He'd be an awful bet. The man's presence in any local film could help hasten the death of the local movie industry.

"I'm ugly, I talk a lot, *mayabang daw ako,*" GTK admitted while waiting for his flight home in Kuala Lumpur on Monday.

He has many critics and enemies, he admitted over a cup of coffee he stirred with a heavily jeweled hand, but he said he produces results.

Great results, in fact. And nobody among his adversaries, not even Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, could debate him on that.

GTK, in stylish black suite, white shirt and slacks, floated into the airport scene looking very fulfilled. He appeared like Frank Sinatra set to take center stage.

Something in his sharp face also resembled joy.

The day before, at the close of athletics action in the 21st Southeast Asian Games, Go's Army made it two-for-two for the Philippines in marathon. The twin golds brought to eight the total gold medals won by the RP track and field contingent, a great leap from the Brunei SEA Games two years ago where GTK salvaged only one gold medal.

* * *

Funny. But top officials of the Philippine delegation, including Go's critics and enemies, have anchored the campaign's claim to success mainly on GTK's shining achievement.

Funnier yet is the fact that this guy, with the looks of a villain, has started to stand out as the biggest hero of the Philippine participation in the KL Games.

How did he do it, my son Chino, who was to join us on the flight back to Manila, asked Mr. Go.

In international competitions, he said, athletes improve and ripen with each foreign stint they take.

What else?

Quality, we have to insist on quality. We trimmed our pool of athletes from 96 down to only 25 in preparation for the SEA Games. That way we were able to spend more time and money for the cream of the crop, the strong medal potentials.

Did they have to rely on foreign help?

No, Go exclaimed, we used purely local coaches, most of them from the Visayas.

* * *

Well, I explained to GTK, we won eight golds in athletics in KL, but will anybody among his big winners come close to the standards for next year's Asian Games in Korea?

Yes, yes, Go barked without hesitation. Eduardo Buenavista, he clipped three seconds from the SEA Games record. His best time is just a shade off the Asiad mark. Remember that they don't always come up with record performances in the Asian Games.

You sure to score in the Asiad?

Well, we can only expect better support and funding now. Mr. Mike Arroyo himself had personally congratulated me. We definitely will go for the gold in Pusan. In fact, three silver medal winners here in KL missed the gold by very, very slim margins.

What about Elma Muros?

She was not on my original list. I wanted a younger athlete who could have also won a gold medal. He would have been a great potential for the Asian Games had he gone to KL. But I ended up giving way to Elma.

Aren't you happy with what she had done?

She won her last gold, that was great for her, but I'm still for nurturing great potentials. Foreign campaigns are very necessary for a track and field athlete to improve and excel. Elma could no longer improve.

* * *

To prepare for the KL campaign, Go sent contingents to compete in Bangkok, Taipei and Vietnam. Members of Go's Army scored impressively in those preparatory campaigns. But there next came claims that the best of Thai and Viet athletes were not fielded in those meets, in an obvious ploy to delude Go about winning in KL.

But the best of the Thai, the Viets, including those from Malaysia and Indonesia, were all here, Go explained. We can only say that we're now a new power in Southeast Asian athletics.

Suddenly, RP, thanks to GTK, is again an athletics power in the region, and all the while people thought only Michael Keon was capable of the grand feat.

Well, it can't be good looks alone, *hindi lamang puro pa-pogi*, GTK remarked.

What do you mean?

You have a good-looking president of the POC, but why is he there, what has he done?

What?

Nothing, if you ask me. He can't even play good politics. He's there courtesy of a mafia. The presidents of rowing, sailing, Ribano, Ramos, etc., all non-performing national sports associations, plot to vote themselves and the president of their choice to office. They go to the Olympics, all international meets, free, but what have they done?

Don't you yourself play sports politics?

Well, all I do is help others, like Graham Lim of basketball. I helped him but all he gave me were more troubles. I created more enemies because of him.

You said you would quit as athletics chief. Will you be running for POC president?

GTK shook his head.

I don't have the looks, *hindi tayo guwapo,* he quipped.

Funny. GTK may not be aware of this, but he could have unwittingly changed the face of the local sports hero— not necessarily from a smile to a sour smirk— with what he had done in KL.

The television producers, in fact, did not lose money on GTK.

Metro dump trucks held in Bulacan

BY CARMELA REYES,
PDI Central Luzon Desk,
CYNTHIA D. BALAN
AND AGNES E. DONATO

POLICE on Sunday stopped seven dump trucks from dumping Metro Manila garbage in Barangay Sta. Rosa II in Marilao, Bulacan.

Police also arrested one of the truck drivers, Arnulfo Calleja, while the six others escaped.

On Monday, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said its technical experts would help local government units pinpoint permanent dumpsites to ease the garbage problem in Metro Manila.

But Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez stressed that the DENR would only provide assistance and that it was still the job of the local governments to pinpoint sites for dumps and landfills.

The chief of the Marilao police, Chief Insp. George Turcuator, said his men turned over the seven dump trucks to the provincial engineering office in Barangay Tabang in Guiguinto town.

Driver Calleja was detained at the Marilao municipal jail.

Last month, Bulacan police also seized 12 garbage trucks from Navotas, Malabon and Valenzuela and the cities of Caloocan and Makati. The trucks were released after their contractors paid a fine of P5,000 for each truck.

Turcuator urged provincial officials to enact an ordinance increasing to P10,000 the fine for illegal dumping of garbage.

He also asked Gov. Josefina de la Cruz to form a task force to keep outsiders from encroaching on the provincial boundaries and garbage sites.

The Sta. Rosa II dumpsite is supposed to be strictly for Marilao's non-biodegradable wastes and does not accommodate other wastes from other areas.

Secretary Alvarez made the assurance of DENR help on Monday in response to the request of the Metro Manila Mayors League for the department to provide technical expertise in handling the garbage issue.

"Our technical experts are prepared to assume this responsibility with the support of the LGUs," Alvarez said.

According to existing laws, garbage is a concern of the local government, particularly the responsibility of pinpointing sites that would form part of the local solid waste management plan.

Mayor Pedro Cuerpo of Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) in Rizal province on Monday expressed confidence that the plan to put up a sanitary landfill in his town for Metro Manila garbage would be carried out.

Cuerpo said Rodriguez residents, who had been opposing the landfill plan, were now beginning to have a more favorable reaction to the proposal after he conducted consultations and explained to them the help that the landfill could bring.

"The initial opposition to the proposed landfill was only due to the people's lack of a deeper understanding of it," Cuerpo said. "But now, they know better and they are beginning to accept the plan."

Cuerpo said he had already spoken with Rodriguez school administrators and various non-government organizations to explain his reasons for offering to host a sanitary landfill for Metro Manila garbage.

"If there was 100 percent resistance before, I would say that more than 50 percent are now in favor of the landfill," he claimed.

He said some sectors were conducting a signature drive against the landfill, but he questioned the manner in which they were doing the campaign.

"I think their method is rather unfair," he said. "They only ask the people if they want garbage in their place, but they don't explain the other issues.

"And what would constitute a majority vote anyway? If they managed to gather 5,000 signatures, could we consider that the voice of the people of Rodriguez?"

The town has a population of about 125,000, according to him.

3 men killed by truck, train

BY JEROME ANING

TWO employees of the Philippine Ports Authority were killed on Monday night after a speeding cargo truck hit the motorcycle they were riding in Tondo, Manila.

In San Andres Bukid, also in Manila, an unidentified man was dismembered after a train hit, dragged and rolled over him Monday afternoon.

Mario Felimiano, 55, single, and Jaime Tobias, 65, widower, a forklift operator, both residents of Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan City, were on their way home when the accident happened.

SPO4 Perlito Soler of the Western Traffic Enforcement Office said the two men were approaching the gate of Pier 8 on their motorcycle (PK-9480) about 8 p.m. when the truck (TVV0921) driven by Isabelo Calipuso Jr. hit them head-on.

The impact hurled Felimiano and Tobias several meters away, police said. Both landed hard on the road and suffered head injuries.

Police arrested Calipuso, 20, of Pasig City, and was charged with two counts of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide.

SPO4 Soler said the truck driven by Calipuso exceeded the 20kph speed limit for trucks inside the pier area. But Calipuso claimed the two men were also speeding on their motorcycle and he failed to see them in time to avoid a collision.

In the other accident, the unidentified man was walking along the railroad tracks at the back of the San Jose Building on the South Luzon Expressway when he was hit by a north-bound air-conditioned train at 4:30 p.m. Monday.

Witnesses told police that the man was a scavenger picking up trash along the road.

Fetus found in Cubao

A SIX-MONTH female fetus was found on a major street in Cubao, Quezon City Thursday night.

The fetus was inside a plastic bag which had been left at the corner of Aurora Boulevard and Gen. Santos Street near the Philippine National Bank, Cubao police reported yesterday.

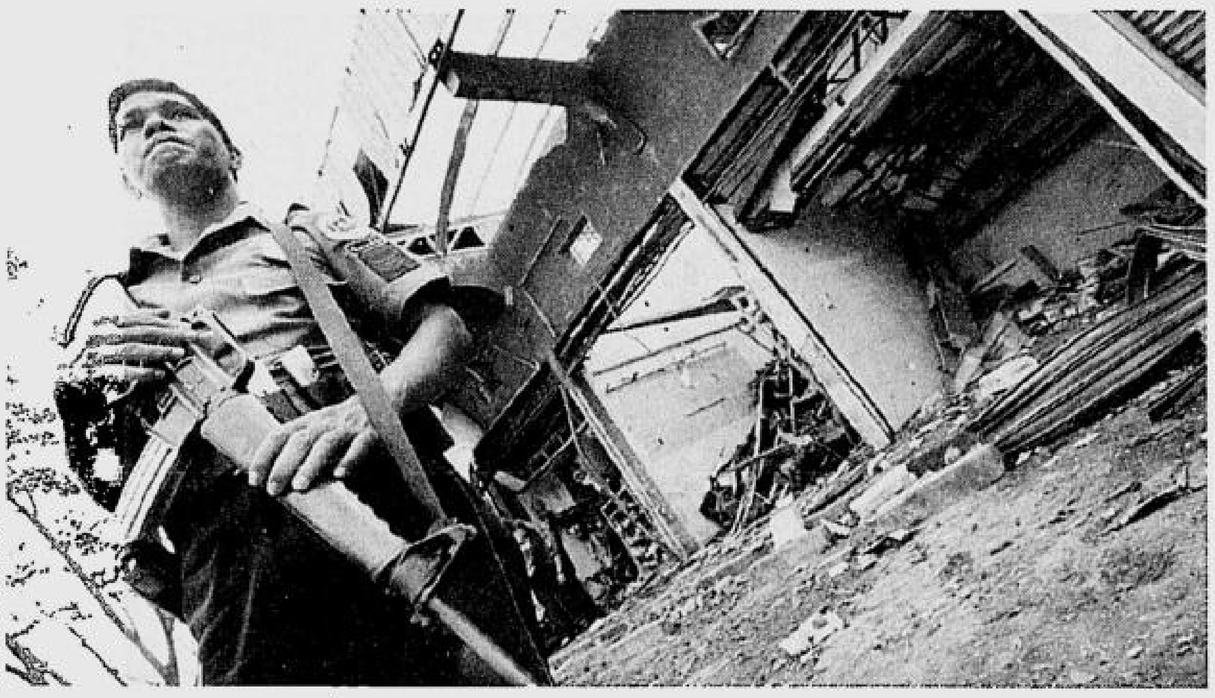
The fetus was believed to have been aborted just hours before it was abandoned because the blood was still fresh, police added.

Mario Arellano, a taxi barker, told investigators that he found the fetus around 8:30 p.m. while he was calling for passengers.

Witnesses said they saw a woman leave the plastic bag an hour before Arellano found it.

Arellano reported his discovery to the police, and members of the Central Police District-Scene of the Crime Operations (Soco) team who arrived minutes later.

Philip C. Tubeza



DENNIS SABANGAN

A DAY after the explosion at Rempson Supermarket, witnesses describe suspects to investigators.

Young policeman shot dead by soldier, 2 other men

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

PO1 ANTHONY Cadiente Jr., 27, was shot in the back of the head and killed by a soldier and two other men in Quezon City on Sunday afternoon.

Cadiente, of the Philippine National Police computer service in Camp Crame, allegedly had an old squabble with the suspect, PFC Edgar Balbuena, which even reached the courts, said PO2 Rommel Merino of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

Police said Cadiente had a female relative whom Balbuena allegedly molested sexually. The suspect and the victim swapped charges in court, Merino said.

Cadiente's mother told police that her son was walking home after cleaning his Toyota Tamaraw FX when Balbuena and his two unidentified companions attacked about 3 p.m.

She said her son did not want to confront Balbuena head-on, and was content to let the court settle their differences.

But when Cadiente reached Canlas Parlor on Kalye Putol in Libis, Quezon City, the three men allegedly came from behind and ganged up on him, Merino said.

As two of them were hitting Cadiente, the third man pulled out a handgun and shot him in the nape, Merino added.

The three men fled on foot while the victim was taken to the Quirino Memorial Hospital where he died at 5:10 p.m., Merino said.

2 Indians held for Antipolo market blast

BY AGNES DONATO

POLICE have taken in custody two Indians in connection with the bombing of a supermarket in Antipolo City on Monday.

Police are also looking for a Pakistani and his Filipino companion who, according to witnesses, were seen in the company of the Indians the night before the bomb blast.

But Supt. Reynaldo Macalalad, Antipolo police chief, said investigators still had not ruled out a squabble between the old and new management of Rempson Supermarket as the reason behind the bombing.

Supt. Normandy Carpio, provincial officer of the Rizal Criminal Investigation and Criminal Division, identified the Indians as Penkej Komar, 27, and Pankaj Jain, 20, both residents of Better Living Subdivision in Parañaque City.

Police are still establishing the identities of the Pakistani and his Filipino companion, who was said to speak with a Mindanaoan accent.

Komar and Jain were turned over by the RCIDG to the Rizal PNP command.'

Carpio said the suspects checked in Sunday at the Gems Hotel, on the Circumferential Road in Antipolo City.

The hotel is about 600 meters away from the Rempson Supermarket, site of the bomb explosion.

The Indians reportedly arrived together about 1:30 p.m. and stayed in Room 104. Two others reportedly came later and rented another room.

Hotel employees reportedly told police it was the first time the foreigners checked in at the hotel.

Carpio said that at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, the four were seen together talking to a group of Mindanaoans who arrived at the hotel on board a black Toyota Revo.

A man who lived near the Rempson Supermarket also told police he saw two men unload six black containers in front of his house.

On Monday, six black plastic containers were seen at a corner of the supermarket, prompting stall owners to call police. The plastic containers turned out to be improvised bombs, each with about 20 liters of ammonium nitrate, equivalent to a pound of C-4 explosive.

Fire fighters tried to defuse the bombs by soaking them in water fired from a water cannon. One of the bombs went off, injuring two firemen, Edilberto Jornacion and Pablo Balberon.

Authorities evacuated the supermarket right after the blast.

Bomb disposal experts from Camp Crame defused the remaining bombs.

The supermarket was undergoing renovation when the bombs were found. The explosion blew off the sliding metal doors and the roof of three stalls and damaged at least seven houses across Lopez Jaena Street in Barangay San Jose.

Declaration of Mehan as historical site done 'without due process'

BY JEROME ANING

THE MANILA city government yesterday rejected documents provided by the National Historical Institute that supposedly prove that the Mehan Garden cannot be touched because it was declared historical in 1934.

City legal officer Melchor Monsod said the declaration, made by the NHI's predecessor, the Philippines Historical Research and Markers Committee (PHRMC), is not valid because it was made without due process.

"Mere identification of an area as having historical significance, as indicated by alleged minutes of a committee meeting, does not have the same effect as a legal declaration arrived at following the processes mandated by law," Monsod said.

The NHI last week made public the minutes of the PHRMC meeting on Oct. 24, 1934, in which then Governor General Frank Murphy, upon the committee's request, approved the installation of a historical marker for the Mehan 11 days earlier.

The PHRMC was composed of Walter Robb as chair, with Edward Hyde, E.B. Rodriguez, Conrado Benitez, Henry Otley Beyer, Fr. Miguel Selga and Jaime de Veyra as members.

The historical significance of the 143-year-old public park is the center of a brewing controversy following an order by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources stopping a firm, tasked by City Hall, from building a two-story parking facility in the park.

"Assuming that the committee really identified the Mehan as an area of historical significance, what was the process followed?" Monsod demanded. "Where is the legal declaration?"

Last week, Mayor Lito Atienza said he would not follow the DENR order and he challenged the department to take the matter to court.

Monsod also questioned the NHI's claim that the Mehan was not included in the areas enumerated as historical sites under President Decree No. 260 since it had been previously declared as such.

He said PD 260 included San Agustin Church in Intramuros, which was already considered a historical landmark prior to the issuance of the decree.

"Why did it not include Mehan if it was really considered a historical landmark prior to the issuance of the decree," the lawyer asked. "Under the law, what is not included is excluded."

What's with the number 11, and other 'terror' text messages

(From page A21)

on d job."

Ador Mawanay, the former special agent of the now-defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) that used to be headed by Lacson, was not spared.

"Watch CNN now. Special forces went into Afghanistan at 1000 GMT. Dey got Bin Laden. They drugged him, shaved his hair and beard and said, Ador, *ikaw na naman?*

One version of this message said it was comedienne Ai-Ai de las Alas who emerged from behind all that hair and beard.

Inviting Nostradamus

And fortune-teller Madame Auring got her share of the limelight.

One text message, written in Pilipino, attributed a "prophecy" to Madam Auring: "At sa bukang liwayway, 2 agila ang dadagit sa puso ng 2 higante, at magluluksa ang daigdig tungo sa walang katiyakan (At dawn, 2 eagles will strike at the heart of 2 giants and the world will mourn and face uncertainty)—madam auring."

A movie columnist pointed out that the name of "Madam Auring" also has 11 letters.

Senators, too, became objects of text jokes. Lacson, who was in the US at the time of the attacks, was said to have "died" in New York.

"Let's all pray for the soul of Sen. Ping Lacson who was killed by falling debris in New York. His body was identified holding a Citibank ATM card. Pls pass."

"Sen Jawo (Robert Jaworski) on d US atax: If Nostradamus knew exactly wat was going 2 happen yrs b4 it happened, it is with a matter of gr8 urgency that we find and invite him 4 questioning."

Erap, Miriam

Former Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago and deposed President Erap also found their way in the text messages.

"Newsflash! *Isang Filipina ang nakatalon mula sa* Boeing 767 *bgo ito sumalpok sa* World Trade Center... *Si* Miriam!!! (I lied! *Ha, ha, ha!*)"

"Tony Blair: D WTC atak s an atak on d free world. Arafat: God help dem. Mubarak: Dis is an atak on humanity. Pope: Unspeakable! Erap: *taas kasi kaya tinamaan.*"

Muslims, from whose ranks the terrorists were suspected to have come, got their share: "U.N. to pass resolution prohibiting muslims and arab looking men from riding airplanes/ships. And that they can only travel by camel or flying carpet."

Show biz, which definitely will exploit the terrorist attacks in future projects, also reared its head.

One message that was able to link the attacks to show biz said: "Do you think d fall in japan and NY stocks, d rise in US treasury notes & atak on terrorists in Afghanistan wil affect d luv team of juday & piolo? *Wag sana!*"

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

ACCUSER 'SETS RECORD STRAIGHT'

'Manlongat has only himself to blame'

MANLONGAT

By Agnes E. Donato

DARING movie actress and TV talk show host Rosanna Roces on Monday laughed off the libel case that was filed against her by a suspected member of the so-called "Valle Verde Gang."

Roces said her accuser, Joselito "Jojo" Manlongat, has only himself to blame for his bad reputation.

The actress, known for her body-baring movie roles, said this when she submitted her counter-affidavit with the Pasig City prosecutor's office on the libel case filed against her by Manlongat.

Manlongat filed the criminal charge against Roces for calling him a "carnapper" on her weekly Saturday afternoon show, "Startalk."

She maintained that her remark about Manlongat was "spontaneous" and that she only said it because it was really how she knew him.

"If the complainant is regarded as a 'carnapper,' he only had himself to blame, for allowing himself to be the object of extensive publicity which accompanied his arrest last year by the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force as a member of the so-called 'Valle Verde Gang,'" Roces said in her affidavit.

But Manlongat's lawyers yesterday wrote the INQUIRER to "set the record straight" about the charges he is reported to be facing.

"To set the record straight, Manlongat is not 'facing charges of car theft as well as of possession of illegal drugs,'" Raul Ibay Tolentino of the Defensor Villamor Villamor Bahia & Tolentino Law Offices said in a letter to the INQUIRER. "There is no 'illegal drugs case against Manlongat (which) is still pending in a Pasig court,' and there is no 'arraignment (that) was held last month.'"

Tolentino was quoting a previous report about Roces' earlier failure to submit a counter-affidavit on Manlongat's libel charge.

"And with regard to the preliminary investigation proceedings on Monday afternoon, please be informed that the investigating prosecutor merely reset the submission of (the) respondent's counter-affidavit/s upon request of the respondent's lawyer, not because of the absence of respondent (Roces)," the lawyer said.

He added: "We are not unaware of the fact that your 'star' has a movie to be shown soon, and it is not unlikely that you have been un-

MANLONGAT/ A24

ROCES

Stars and scribes together

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"AMERICA'S Sweethearts," the new **Julia Roberts-Catherine Zeta-Jones** starrer, is about stars and movie reporters schnoozing during the promotional campaign for a big Hollywood production. The release of the film has focused the public's attention on the unique relationship between film people and the members of the movie press, and there has been a spate of articles and TV shows on the subject.

The relationship between stars and Hollywood scribes is governed by rules of conduct for both parties, but these rules tend to be honored more in the breach than in the observance.

Some Hollywood scribes' excesses have been chronicled in time for the film's release, to make the public more familiar with the production's theme and subject matter:

A writer recalled that he had once written something negative about a movie mogul, who subsequently called to ask him to dinner at an expensive restaurant to discuss their "relationship." The producer revealed that the writer's hatchet job on him had hurt him deeply, and he wanted to clear the air.

He also wanted to get on the writer's good side, so he offered some perks that the writer could avail of: to cover the hottest parties in town, to meet the top superstars, even to launch an entertainment career of his own!

Thrown off by this sleazy munificence, the writer joked that he wanted to be a singer, and was shocked when the producer took him seriously and practically offered him a recording contract, right then and there!

Why are show biz people so generous with entertainment writers? Because they want to get favorable press for themselves and their productions. Sure, they could simply buy ads, but mentions in important newspapers and columns are deemed more influential because they personalize the advertising message. So, press people are dined, wired, womaned or "manned"—and bribed in cash or in kind.

Of course, the traffic of corruption doesn't go merely one-way. Hollywood scribes also request for or demand freebies from film people, in exchange for favorable mention in their columns or articles.

One popular movie columnist alone was recently accused of the following peccadilloes or sins: he requested free limo service to gala events; accepted expensive gifts like an Armani suit, a Cartier pen, and free shopping sprees at an L. A. clothing store; got free office space from two producers; got acting credits for movies in which he never appeared, etc.

But oldtimers say that bribery was much more rampant and "generous" in the halcyon years of the '50s. At Christmastime, they recall, trucks loaded with jewelry, expensive wine and flowers would drive up to the homes of the two most powerful show biz columnists in Hollywood. One of them even delighted in describing her mansion as "the house that fear built."

These days, the *quid pro quo* is done much more subtly. Aside from occasional gifts, big Hollywood names give preferred press people first crack at interviews with them, or cover stories about them.

There's no money exchanged, but the chosen writer feels beholden to the big star because the exclusive article will add to his cachet and to his publication's sales, so it isn't likely that he's going to diss the star in his high-profile piece.

Reprehensible? Hardly. An exercise in subtle pressure? Could be. But, if Hollywood writers occasionally succumb to seduction of this sort, the star-press relationship on the local show biz scene could be described more as "mutual rape with consent"—!

(To be concluded)

DILG, PNP use television to boost police image

EVEN before it was launched, "Call 117" has been getting negative feedback from people who say it will be a poor copycat of America's famous emergency hotline, 911.

But the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) is optimistic that "Call 117" will become a standard quick response to reports of crime, emergencies or accidents.

The emergency hotline will be supported by a weekly TV program, "117," similar to America's "Rescue 911," hosted by **William Shatner**.

"117" is a one-hour public affairs show jointly produced by the DILG and the Philippine National Police (PNP). It will be hosted by DILG Secretary **Joey Lina**, PNP chief **Leandro Mendoza** and **Cory Quirino**.

"117" will air every Friday, starting Sept. 21, 10 p.m. on National Broadcasting Network (NBN) Channel 4.

During the launch of the TV program last week at the Manila Hotel, Lina said "117" aims to showcase the "new image" of the police force. "We hope to encourage young and idealistic citizens to join its ranks in the service of the country," he said.

Apart from the dramatizations and re-enactment of real life emergency cases, "117" will have informative segments. "We want the public to know that the 130,000-strong police force is here to protect them and serve them 24 hours a day," Lina explained.

"We hope '117' will serve as a motivating force for the PNP and a vehicle for a continuing dialogue with the public."

"Bayani Ka" is a five-minute feature of a policeman who has done a heroic deed by solving a crime.

"Bisita Presinto" features a police precinct, its chief and its men at work.

"Iwas Krimen" is a feature on the modus operandi of criminals, as well as on tips on how not to become a crime victim.

"PNP Files" is a discussion of a celebrated crime case and its development, with the hosts and guest panelists.

"Mga Wanted ng Bayan" is a showcase of pictures and police sketches of criminals on the loose, supported by a hotline the public may call.

"Huli Ka" features crimes and criminals, from petty to major.

"Samakana" focuses on youth-oriented programs initiated by the PNP in some districts of the country.

"117" hosts: (from left) PNP chief Leandro Mendoza, Cory Quirino and DILG Secretary Joey Lina.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

Impressive launch

I ATTENDED the launch last week of Touch Mobile, the latest cellular offering of Islacom and Globe Telecom. The two phone companies made sure it was a grand event and held it at the posh Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La.

Touch Mobile is the newest prepaid cellular service in the market. A series of activities in malls, TV networks and radio stations around the country will be part of its big-bang entry.

The launch was supported by Ayala Corp., Singapore Telecom International and Deutsche Telecom.

Lani Misalucha entertained the huge cocktail crowd, composed mostly of business executives, telecom VIPs and other corporate honchos.

A grand TV launch will be held Sept. 23 on ABS-CBN's noontime show, "Asap."

Next month, Touch Mobile will do radio promos on FM stations, where callers can win fabulous prizes.

According to **Jones T. Campos**, Globe assistant vice president for public relations, Touch Mobile has more than 1,400 digital cell sites nationwide.

What's most impressive about the Touch Mobile service is its unique voice information on-demand feature, which is not readily available from other providers. Just dial 8140 and the voice system will provide a wide range of information about show biz, news, concerts, movies, restaurants, stock market, foreign exchange, horoscope and travel.

Bernadette preggy

WE RAN into show biz couple **Gary Estrada** and **Bernadette Allysson** recently at Dish, the now-popular dining place at Rockwell's Power Plant mall. The two tied the knot just a few months ago.

Bernadette told us that she is now two months pregnant. But she said she doesn't crave for anything.

"But I have this tendency to throw up after eating," she said. "That's what's giving me a hard time."

The pretty Bernadette has opted to leave the show biz limelight, albeit only temporarily. After she gives birth early next year, she's going to decide whether to return to acting or simply be a dutiful wife to Gary and mother to their baby.

Broadcaster takes a bride

NEWSCASTER **Rod Nepomuceno** told the good news recently that he's getting hitched before yearend.

Rod will tie the knot with his girlfriend, **Teemy Ledesma**, on Dec. 28 at Mimosa in Clark Field, Pampanga.

Rod and Teemy met in 1989 when he was still modeling and she was still a flight attendant for Cathay Pacific. But they lost contact when she went to New York to study and work.

Their paths crossed again in 1999 and, as fate would have it, they fell in love.

Rod is such a hopeless romantic that when he proposed marriage to Teemy, he did it on nationwide TV.

Last Feb. 14, before he wrapped up the evening newscast on ABC 5, Rod told the viewers, "If President Macapagal will have her private time with her husband this Valentine's Day, allow me to have my own private time on air. To my Valentine, Teemy Ledesma, will you marry me?"

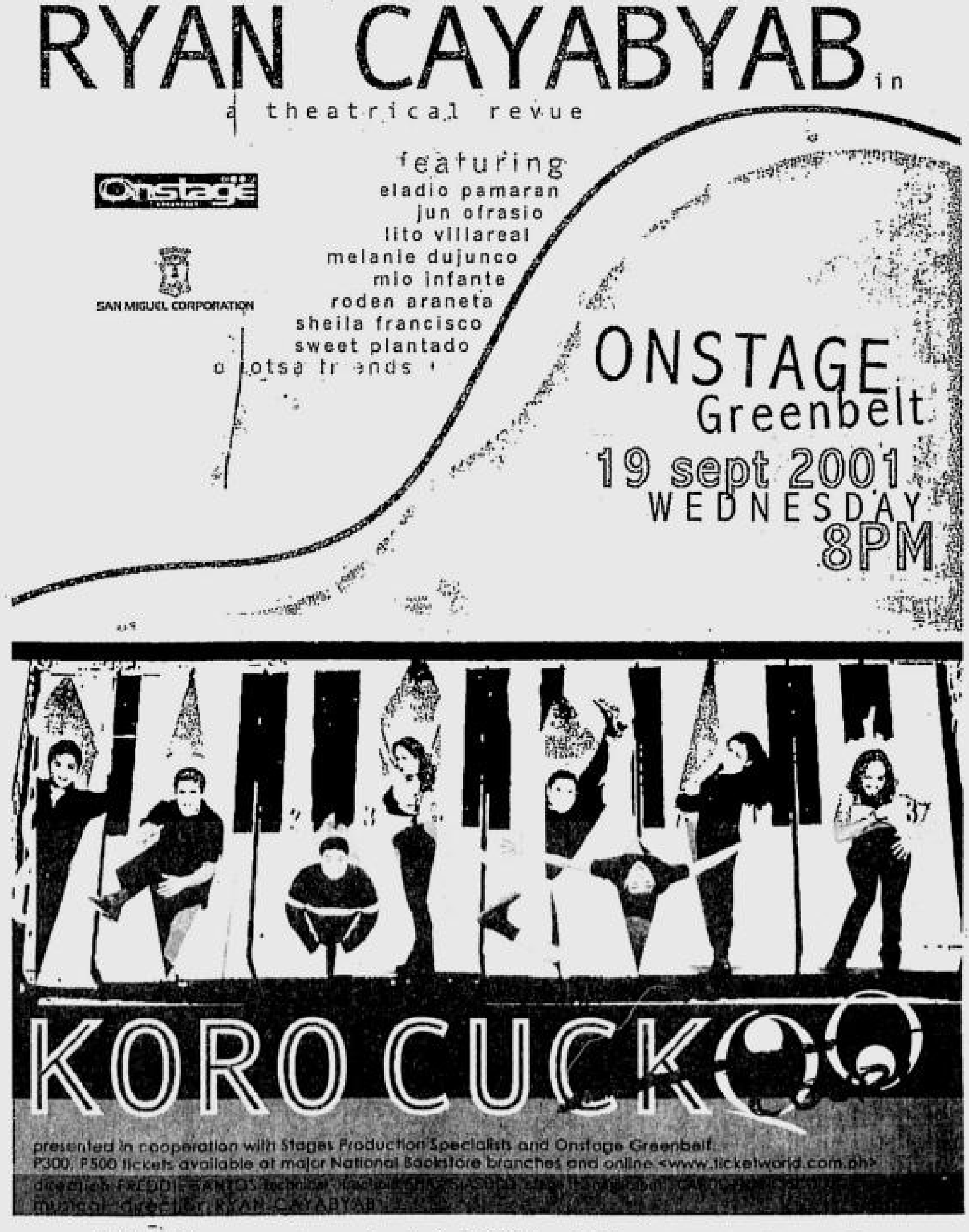
Then he took out the ring and the TV crew pushed him to his girlfriend who was in the studio that night.

Among their wedding sponsors are President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** and Sen. **Edgardo Angara**.

Rod is now the marketing and communications director of MTV Philippines.

We saw him during the launch of MTV's VJ Hunt 2001, held at TGI Friday's in Glorietta.

NEPOMUCENO



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11	BURLESK QUEEN
12	A.I.

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3	SCARY MOVIE 2
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5	PUKYUTAN
6	BANYO QUEEN
7	CLOSED
8	RUSH HOUR 2

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

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2	KNIGHT'S TALE
3	BURLESK QUEEN
4	PUKYUTAN
5	MANO MANO 2
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3 RUSH HOUR 2	3 PRINCESS DIARIES THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 SCARY MOVIE 2 In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 ORIGINAL SIN In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	3 SCARY MOVIE 2 In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	4 THE INVISIBLE CIRCUS (Phil. Premiere) In DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film		4 KORO CUCKOO SEPT. 19 – 8PM Onstage	4 ENEMY AT THE GATES In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 A KNIGHT'S TALE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (SDDS)	A.I.
2 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
3 (DTS)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4 GOLD (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
6 GOLD (SDDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8 (RRVS)	BANYO QUEEN
9 (RRVS)	RUSH HOUR 2
10 (RRVS)	SCARY MOVIE 2

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 899.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	BANYO QUEEN
5	BURLESK QUEEN
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
2 (DTS)	
3	BANYO QUEEN

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	ORIGINAL SIN
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3	PUKYUTAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	BURLESK QUEEN
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	BANYO QUEEN
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE
7	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
8	PUKYUTAN

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7053152 - 55

PRINCESS DIARIES

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	CATS & DOGS
2	RADYO

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	BURLESK QUEEN
3	PUKYUTAN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BURLESK QUEEN
A	PUKYUTAN

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	BURLESK QUEEN
3	MANO MANO 2
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	PUKYUTAN
5	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
6	BANYO QUEEN
7 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
8 (SDDS)	KNIGHT'S TALE
9 (DOLBY)	SCARY MOVIE 2

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3	MANO MANO 2
4 (SDDS)	KNIGHT'S TALE
5	PUKYUTAN
6 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
7 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
2	BANYO QUEEN
3	PUKYUTAN
4	MANO MANO 2
5 (SDDS)	KNIGHT'S TALE
6	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
7 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8	ENEMY AT THE GATES

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
4	PUKYUTAN
5 (SDDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
Lords	BANYO QUEEN
Jennet	PUKYUTAN

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	PUKYUTAN
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	PUKYUTAN
4	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
5	BANYO QUEEN

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	PUKYUTAN
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	MANO MANO 2

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	PUKYUTAN
3	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	BANYO QUEEN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	PUKYUTAN
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	BANYO QUEEN
3 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ORIGINAL SIN
2 (DTS)	BANYO QUEEN
3 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1148

1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
3 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
4	MANO MANO 2

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6773

1	ANIMAL
2	A.I.
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Llanas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	ORIGINAL SIN
2	BURLESK QUEEN
3	BANYO QUEEN
4 (DTS)	MANO MANO 2

Llanas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3 (DTS)	PUKYUTAN
4	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
5	MANO MANO 2

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	PUKYUTAN
3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	
2	
3	VENUS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	MANO MANO 2
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	PUKYUTAN
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	PUKYUTAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
2	PUKYUTAN
3	MANO MANO 2

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	CROCODILE 2
2	KNIGHT'S TALE
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	MANO MANO 2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	MANO MANO 2
3	BANYO QUEEN
4 (DTS EX)	ENEMY AT THE GATES

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATION
Mile Long Compound, Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City
Tel. No.: 700-5314 to 15.
For VIP, Gold, Silver membership, call: 755-3150 to 55
For reservations, call: 751-2010 to 15

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

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PRINCESS DIARIES

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

e-mail: http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING

State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas

GALLERIA 632-9115-16 / 633-7641 loc. 270

1 THX	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4	SCARY MOVIE 2
5	ORIGINAL SIN
6	A KNIGHT'S TALE
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	A.I.
9	BANYO QUEEN
10	ORIGINAL SIN

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	SCARY MOVIE 2
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	BANYO QUEEN
6	A KNIGHT'S TALE
7	ORIGINAL SIN

NOVALICHES 935-3229 to 31

1	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	RESERVE
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	ORIGINAL SIN
6	BANYO QUEEN
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	ENEMY AT THE GATES

IMUS (046) 471-8168

1	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2	SCARY MOVIE 2
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	ORIGINAL SIN
5	PRINCESS DIARIES
6	PUKYUTAN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	A.I.
3	SCARY MOVIE 2
4	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BANYO QUEEN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ORIGINAL SIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SCARY MOVIE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PUKYUTAN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	AMORSEKO / KAMASUTRA 2001
ODEON	BANYO QUEEN
ODEON-2	CROCODILE 2
ROBEN	MANO MANO 2
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	TOM RAIDER / ALONG CAME A SPIDER
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MANO MANO 2
REMAR	MANO MANO 2
REMAR-2	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BANYO QUEEN
B	MANO MANO 2
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	MANO MANO 2
CINEMA-3	PUKYUTAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	A.I.
CINEMA-7	BURLESK QUEEN
CINEMA-8	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-12	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-14	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-15	BANYO QUEEN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-3	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-4	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-5	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	PRINCESS DIARIES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	SOON TO OPEN
CINEMA-2	SOON TO OPEN
CINEMA-4	SOON TO OPEN
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	THE STRANGER
CINEMA-2	AMBISYOSA
CINEMA-4	THALIA

Jazz classics in new album

CITY Lite 88.3, with MCA Universal Inc. recently launched the "City Lite 88.3 Smooth Jazz Classics Collection" CD at Strumm's El Pueblo.

The album offers listeners a spellbinding brew of cool, refreshing, relaxing smooth jazz music which includes timeless treasures of Patti Austin, Dave Grusin, Tom Scott, Seawind, Jeffrey Osborne and Diane Schurr.

The cuts in the collection include "The Key to You" by David Benoit featuring David Pack from the album "Every Step of the Way;" "In My Life" by Patti Austin from the album "Love Is Gonna Getcha;" "On and On" by Stephen Bishop, from the album of the same title; "Let's Stay Together" by The Rippingtons, from the album "Tourist in Paradise;"

"I Need Your Love" by Seawind; "Keep This Love Alive" by Tom Scott, featuring David Pack, from the album of the same title; "Smiles and Miles to Go" by Larry Carlton; "Eenie Meenie" by Jeffrey Osborne;

"Louisiana Sunday Afternoon" by Diane Schurr; "Friends and Strangers" by Dave Grusin, from the album "Mountain Dance;" "New York Afternoon" by Rare Silk, from the album "New Weave;" "Local Hero" by Yellow Jackets, from the album "Politics;"

"Forever Blue" by Swing Out Sisters, from the album "Kaleidoscope World;" and "One Note Samba" by Antonio Carlos Jobim from the album "The Composer Plays."

"City Lite 88.3 Smooth Jazz Classics" is available in CDs and cassettes at Tower Records, Music One outlets and other record bars.

Manlongat

(From page A23)

wittingly used by your 'star' for publicity."

Roces on Monday said that if Manlongat indeed suffered embarrassment for being tagged a car thief, he should go after the media, "which have portrayed him as a carnapper from the day that he was arrested."

"To date, the complainant has not sought redress or retraction from any of the publications, which have branded him a carnapper," Roces said.

"Nor has he instituted any damage control to prevent the continued spectacle of him attired in his signature 'PAOCTF DETAINEE' t-shirt—which is the image of the complainant that has been burned into the consciousness of the citizenry—from being aired repeatedly," she added.

Even as she laughed off the libel charge, Roces said she and her lawyer June Ambrosio were thinking of filing countercharges against Manlongat.

Manlongat, who filed the libel charge on Aug. 23, is set to appear before the office of prosecutor Ma. Anunciacion Hipol next Monday to submit his reply.

Bert Nievera stages 'Timeless VII'

BALLADEER Bert Nievera, recipient of this year's special achievement trophy from the Aliw Awards Foundation, is getting ready for his biggest concert in years.

"Timeless VII," the musical event will banner the enduring balladeer performing with a 30-piece orchestra on Oct. 17 and 18 at the Duelling Pianos, second floor of Country Waffles Restaurant, Annapolis st., Greenhills.

Musical director and guest conductor is multi-awarded composer Danny Tan.

Special guest for the two-night show is the diminutive belter Dessa.

"Timeless VII" is a multi-celebration of three milestones in Bert's career – his 65th birthday, his 47th year in the entertainment business and the first anniversary of Country Waffles Greenhills.

For inquiries and reservation, call 722-4422 or 886-0607.

Bert recorded "The Greatest Love Affair," a duet with his equally popular son, Martin Nievera. It was released in Martin's latest album, "My Souvenirs," which was recently launched at Country Waffles in Greenhills. The album is under MCA Universal.

NIEVERA

Cravings offers cinema treats

CRAVINGS, the favorite restaurant and café, teams up with choice mall theaters to bring a twin treat. Starting this month, every P500 single purchase at any participating Cravings outlets gives diners a free movie pass to Robinson's Movieworld at Robinson's Galleria and Robinson's Place-Ermita, The Cinema at Shangri-La Mall, Festival Cinema at Festival Supermall and Ayala Theater at Greenbelt Mall.

Moviegoers can also enjoy limited dining discount coupons from Cravings as a surprise when they buy tickets to English movies in the said theaters.

This double delight from Cravings Restaurants and Cafés comes from participating branches at Edsa Shangri-La Mall, Robinson's Galleria, Robinson's Place-Ermita, Festival Mall and Greenbelt Mall.

Promo ends Dec. 15.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SCARY MOVIE 2 - R 18 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	A KNIGHT'S TALE - P 13 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45	ORIGINAL SIN - R 18 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
ENEMY AT THE GATES - R 18 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	PRINCESS DIARIES - GP 11:30, 1:55, 4:20, 6:45, 9:10	PRINCESS DIARIES - GP 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

AYALA CINEMAS Art Film Glorietta 4 Your Alternative Cinema PIONEER FILMS
present
The Philippine Premiere
of

Jordana Brewster Christopher Eccleston Cameron Diaz
THE INVISIBLE CIRCUS

MTRCB Rating: RESTRICTED 18
Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

A MUST SEE!
CAMERON DIAZ SHINES IN THIS FILM!
THE INVISIBLE CIRCUS
Jordana Brewster Christopher Eccleston
& Cameron Diaz

Based on Jennifer Egan's first novel, follows the journey of eighteen-year-old Phoebe, who travels to Europe in the late 1970s to find out what had caused the death of her sister, Faith, several years earlier while traveling there with her boyfriend, Wolf. On her journey of discovery, Phoebe retraces Faith's trail from San Francisco to Paris, and finally to Portugal to the very cliff side village where Faith had committed suicide – but not before experiencing a bad LSD trip and sleeping with her dead sister's boyfriend first: It's a haunting tale that interweaves death, mystery, memory and loss. But more than that, it delves into the fathomless pith of the '60s – a generation whose dreamers indulged in ideals that seemed to turn the world, and their own lives, upside-down and inside-out.

OPENS TODAY
Only at *ARTFILM* - GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS

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OPENS TODAY
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Julie Andrews Anne Hathaway

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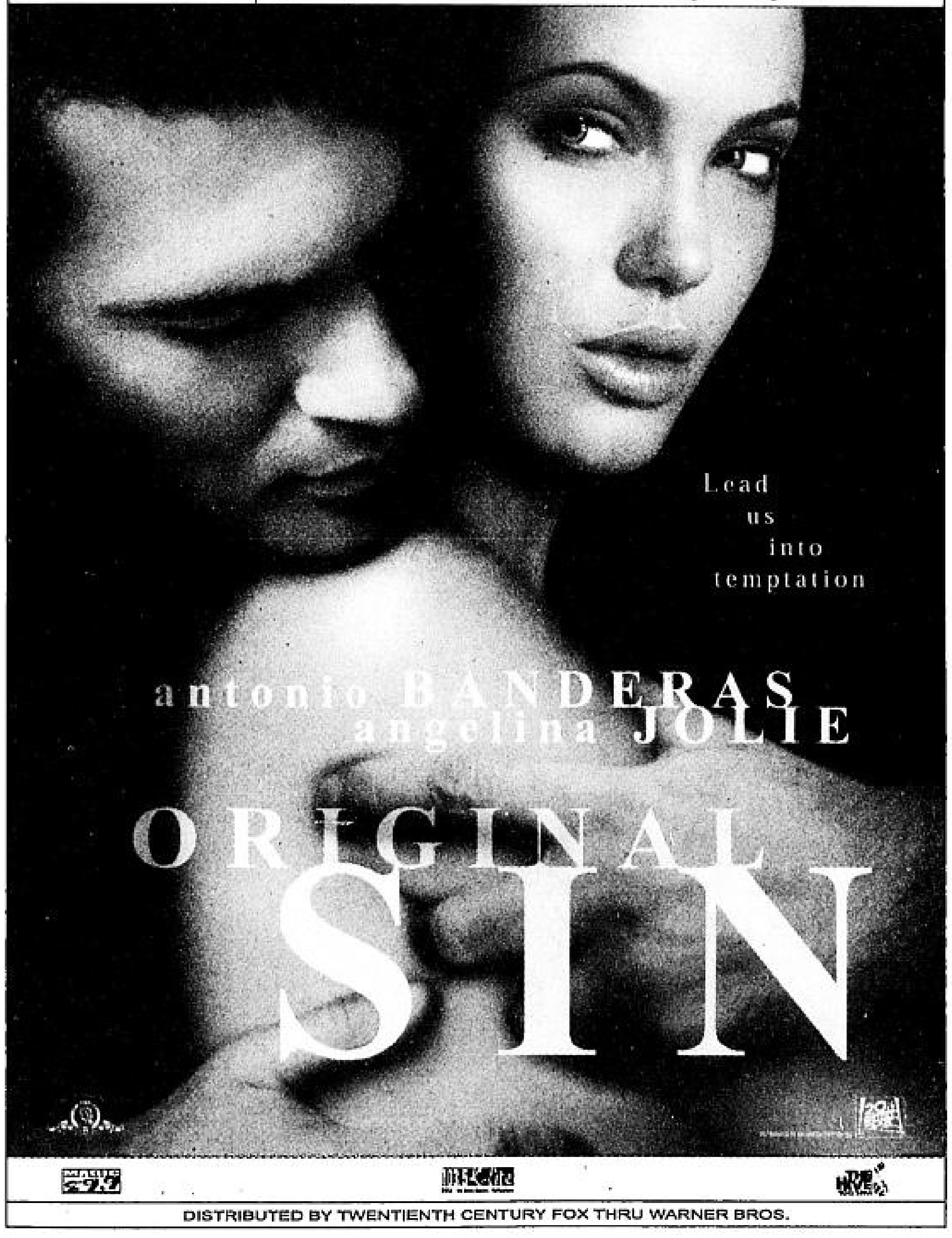
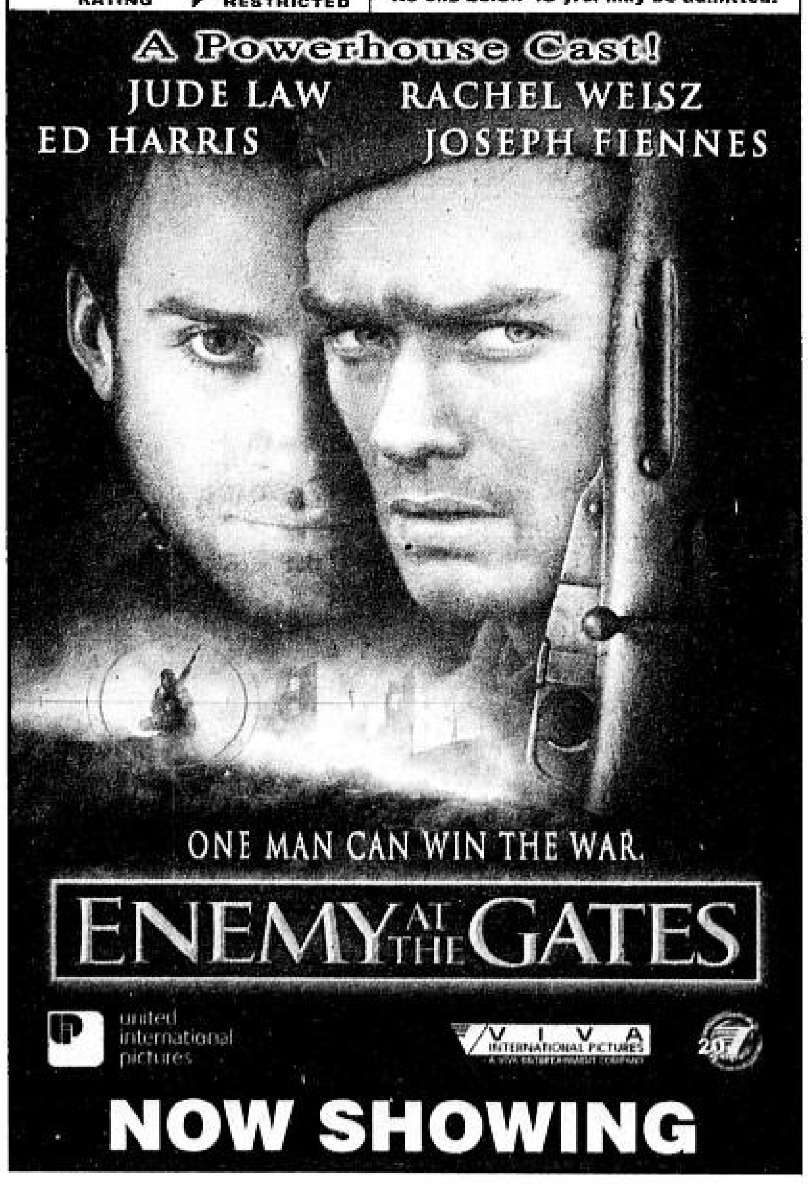
Backstreet Boys
Aaron Carter
Mandy Moore
BBMak
B*Witched
plus
"SuperGirl"
by krystal harris
"Miracles Happen"
by Myra
THE PRINCESS DIARIES
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

GRAND OPENING TODAY!
MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.



Lead us into temptation
antonio BANDERAS angelina JOLIE
ORIGINAL SIN
DISTRIBUTED BY TWENTIENTH CENTURY FOX THRU WARNER BROS.

MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS. No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.



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ED HARRIS JOSEPH FIENNES
ONE MAN CAN WIN THE WAR.
ENEMY AT THE GATES
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
NOW SHOWING

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RENZO CRUZ and LEANDRO BALDEMOR

featuring PYKE MONTEVERO
INA RAYMUNDO in
Burlesk Queen NGAYON
RE - ISSUE
RICKY BELMONTE · JEAN SABURIT · TERESA LOYZAGA and ROY RODRIGO
ALVIN ANSON · MARITA ZOBEL · CLOYD ROBINSON · [illegible] · ENRICO CONTRERAS
with CAMILLA ROXAS and ALMA SORIANO
Photographed by ROMY VITUG
A Film by JOSE N. CARREON
FILM INTERNATIONAL Special Presentation

He Will Rock You!
2ND 'ACTION + COMEDY + ROMANCE' WEEK!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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"'A Knight's Tale' kicks off the summer season in HIGH STYLE! A blend of 'Gladiator' and 'Shakespeare in Love'..."
ANDREW JOHNSTON
US WEEKLY
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aknightstale.com
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from "My Best Friend's Wedding"
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Brand New Day
Sting
TONE BRANDNEW

Someday
Sugar Ray
TONE SUMDAY

King of My Castle
Wamdue Project
TONE KINGOFMY

Friends' Theme
The Rembrandts
TONE FRIENDS

One Last Cry
Brian McKnight
TONE 1LASTCRY

I Put a Spell On You
Sonique
TONE IPUT

Love Me For a Reason
Boyzone
TONE LUV4RISN

Pagdating ng Panahon
Aiza Seguerra
TONE PAGDATING

I Try
Macy Gray
TONE ITRY

Incomplete
Sisqo
TONE INCOMPLETE

Are You Gonna Go My Way
Lenny Kravitz
TONE AREYOUGO

Back at One
Brian McKnight
TONE BACKAT1

Close To You
Carpenters
TONE CLOSE2U

Love Of My Life
Brian McKnight
TONE LOVEOFMY

We Will Rock You
Queen
TONE ROCKYOU

Butterfly
Crazy Town
TONE BUTTERFLY

Breathe
Prodigy
TONE BREATHE

Holler
Spicegirls
TONE HOLLER

Satisfaction
Rolling Stones
TONE SATISFAC

I'm Like a Bird
Nelly Furtado
TONE IMLIKEA

Lady Marmalade
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Wheatus
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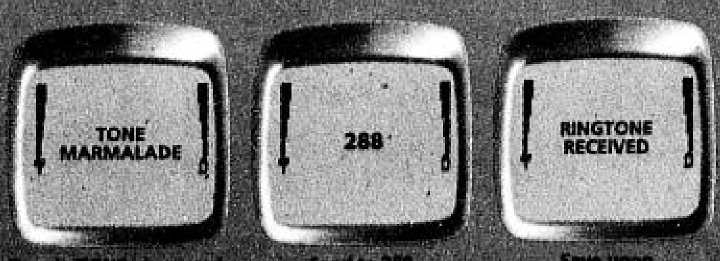

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WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▪ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

ALL NEW
CIVIC
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Banks' bad loans hit all-time high

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BAD loans of the local banking sector swelled to a historic high of 17.72 percent of its total loan portfolio as of end-July.

The increase from 16.96 percent a month ago reflected the deteriorating ability of borrowers to pay even the interest on their maturing obligations despite the improved economic performance in the second quarter.

Documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the 0.76-percentage point rise in the non-performing loans (NPLs) of the commercial banking sector was due to an P11.3-billion increase in bad loans to a total of P278.39 billion as of July while the total loan portfolio shrunk by P4 billion to P1.57 trillion.

"We don't expect a further significant escalation in the coming months in NPLs although no major improvement is also expected in the near-term in the absence of any major clean-up initiative," BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said.

Jack Rodman, managing director of Ernst & Young Asia Pacific, had said that the NPL level of the country's banking sector was most likely understated. He said the bad loans of the entire industry might be more than P300 billion.

Rodman's group, including its local partner Punongbayan & Araullo, was proposing to act as third-party auditors to determine the proper valuation of bad loans and assets to make these more attractive to investors.

NPLs refer to accounts whose principal or interest was unpaid for 90 days or more after the due date. A loan is considered past due if it is unpaid after a month.

Reyes said the higher NPL ratio in July still reflected the lagged impact of higher interest rates and a weaker peso in the last quarter of 2000.

The BSP also noted that had interbank loans been taken out from the total loan portfolio, the ratio of commercial banks' NPLs would have deteriorated to 19.52 percent from 18.73 percent in June.

Except for foreign bank branches whose bad loan ratio improved to 4.56 percent from the previous month's 4.88 percent, all other commercial banks posted higher NPL levels.

The bad loan ratio of local universal banks rose to 20.27 percent in July from 19.47 percent while the NPL ratio of the rest of the privately owned commercial banks also swelled to 21.54 percent from 20.76 percent.

State-owned banks also posted a higher bad loan ratio of 19.15 percent from 17.13 percent.

Bank analysts said that despite a 3.5-percent growth in gross domestic product in the second quarter, the economic recovery appeared to have not been felt by the banks and their borrowers.

Thus, more borrowers failed to settle their maturing debts while not much loan applications were coming up because of the anemic economic condition that was stalling any expansion or even registration

BANKS'/ B2

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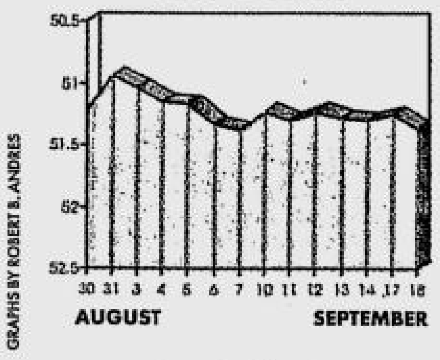

GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

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As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 18, 2001

Y 117.82 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Sept. 18, 2001

GOLD:$288.00/288.50
per ounce Hong Kong,
Sept. 18, 2001

BSP rates unchanged

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board yesterday decided to keep its overnight rates steady despite a half-a-percentage point cut in US interest rates.

"The consensus was not to change the rates because the overriding consideration was the possible impact to inflation of concerns over a rising oil price and a possible wage hike. Inflation is clearly at risk," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

The central bank's overnight borrowing and lending rates were kept at 9 percent and 11.25 percent.

Buenaventura said that monetary authorities wanted to wait for the September inflation figure before making any further decision.

Court junks TRO bid against RFM

THE QUEZON City Regional Trial Court yesterday junked a new petition filed by Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco for a temporary restraining order against the sale of shares held by RFM Corp. in soft drink unit Cosmos Bottling Corp.

"There is now no legal impediment for RFM to proceed with the sale of its Cosmos shares to San Miguel Corp.," RFM legal counsel Francis Lim of the Accra Law Office said in a statement yesterday.

RFM and SMC aim to sign a definitive share purchase agreement over Cosmos before the month ends.

The preliminary injunction obtained by Syjuco from the court earlier covered only the sale by Cosmos of the assets his family previously owned, such as the Jaz Cola soft drink brand, which was among those sold to Cosmos five years ago.

With the Cosmos issue still pending in court, Syjuco sought to involve the mother company, RFM, because it was the entity selling the shareholdings in Cosmos.

Lim explained, however, that "RFM was never a party to any of the transactions with Syjuco's companies five years ago. None of the agreements was ever signed by RFM or its representatives."

Acting Judge Modesto Juanson noted: "After assessing both contentions, the court is inclined not to issue the TRO being sought. The supposedly irreparable injury plaintiffs may suffer is not clearly defined and proven as yet."

The RFM group has maintained that the injunction would not affect the P15-billion deal with SMC because RFM was not a party to the case. The group said Syjuco's lawyers then amended the complaint so as to include RFM.

Lim said the filing of an amended complaint was "an admission that Syjuco's original application for preliminary injunction does not cover the sale of RFM's share in Cosmos."

RP bonds fetch 15.5%

THE MAIDEN issue of Philippine government 10-year bonds for the agriculture and agrarian reform sector fetched a coupon rate of 15.5 percent at the government's auction yesterday.

Tenders for the issue worth P2 billion totaled P1.583 billion and the government accepted P1.173 billion at the coupon rate. Traders expected the bonds to fetch a coupon rate of between 14.5 percent and 15.5 percent.

The Bureau of Treasury last accepted a coupon rate of 17.5 percent for 10-year bonds on Jan. 16, but traders said this borrowing was not tied to the agriculture/agrarian reform sector law.

Reuters

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BOI-registered investments jump 360%

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INVESTMENTS registered with the Board of Investments climbed 360 percent in the first eight months of the year as Filipino businessmen showed their confidence in the new administration by expanding existing businesses or putting up new operations.

But the BOI is worried that the growth in investments may taper off for the rest of the year due to the effects of the terrorist attacks on the US, which is feared to further dampen economic activities worldwide.

BOI data showed that investments from January to August this year reached P89.86 billion, up from P19.6 billion during the same period last year. The total number of projects registered during the period rose 42 percent to 158 while the projected number of new jobs that will be created by these projects doubled to 26,258.

Local investors accounted for the bulk of the investment surge with P42.69 billion in equity investments in the first eight months, up 1,514 percent from P2.64 billion in the same period last year.

Foreign equity investments climbed 185.43 percent to P14.5 billion in the eight-month period this year, from P5.08 billion during the same months last year. Leading foreign investment sources were Singapore (P9.41 billion), Japan (P1.46 billion) and Sweden (P750.6 million)

The top investment areas during the period were infrastructure or industrial services (P48.1 billion), public utilities (P17.21 billion) and information technology-related projects (P11.27 billion).

The BOI has already surpassed the P50-billion investment target this year. It is eyeing to hit the P100-billion mark by yearend. But the BOI has expressed concern on a slowdown in growth because of the impact on investor confidence especially with the US going to war over the attacks in New York and Washington.

The top investment projects in the last eight months were Globe Telecom Inc. (P39.728 billion), Smart Communications Inc. (P17.102 billion), and Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (P8.17 billion).

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September 20 (1:30 p.m.)	Gum Arabic Look of the Future	Jumbo Trading Co., Ltd.
September 21 (1:30-2:30 p.m.)	PaperOne: All Purpose Paper	JND Int'l Corp. / April Fine Paper
September 21 (3:00-5:00 p.m.)	The Papers of the Future	Star Paper Corporation

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SCHEDULE OF FREE TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

DATE & TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTED BY:
September 19 (1:30 p.m.)	"The Art in Packaging: Making Your Products Stand Out"	San Miguel Packaging Products
September 19 (3:00 p.m.)	"Recent Developments in MICA Water-based Primer Technology"	TPT International, Inc.
September 20 (10:30 a.m.)	"Raxson Ink Dispensing Systems: Management & Cost Control Aspects"	TPT International, Inc.
September 20 (1:30 p.m.)	"Plate Making & Du Pont Cyrel Technical Center Offering"	Du Ponts Far East Inc. Philippines
September 20 (3:30 p.m.)	"Basic Adhesion Technology with Sherman Treaters"	Colmar Trading Corporation
September 21 (10:30 a.m.)	"Latest Developments in Solventfree Lamination & Cold Seal Applications"	TPT International, Inc.
September 21 (1:30 p.m.)	Globis Presentation	Globis, Inc.
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SEPT.30 DEADLINE

Congress seen to pass money laundering law

CONGRESS is expected to beat the deadline for passing a law against money laundering and head off looming sanctions from developed countries, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

Congress resumes sessions next week, under pressure to outlaw money laundering amid threatened sanctions by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) starting Oct. 1 if the bill is not passed by the end of this month.

Buenaventura said legislators were giving the proposed law the highest priority.

"Hopefully we can still pass the bill before Sept. 30 and that would save us the headache of having additional sanctions imposed on us," he said on local television.

Buenaventura said the House of Representatives banking committee had managed to consolidate a number of versions of the money laundering bill, which will be deliberated on by the full body on Monday.

The Senate expects to firm up its own version of the bill by the end of the week, he added.

The final versions of each chamber will then be reconciled by a bicameral committee before the final version is passed and signed into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"There are very few differences between the House version and the Senate version so it's up to them to have bicameral discussions just to harmonize the two," Buenaventura said.

"But I am told based on their discussions that the differences are not of any magnitude."

Buenaventura reiterated the Philippines would be facing delayed overseas transactions and intense scrutiny if it failed to pass anti-laundering laws.

BUENAVENTURA

He said that passing the bill one to two weeks after the deadline would mean a tedious review by the FATF, a Paris-based anti-money laundering body set up by the Group of Seven most industrialized countries, before the threatened sanctions are lifted. *AFP*

GMA urged to intervene in NSC reopening issue

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE LABOR union of National Steel Corp. has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to take a direct hand in the planned reopening of the steel giant's Iligan factory.

The appeal was made after the NSC Labor Union blamed Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II for delaying the process of picking a suitable investor for the steel giant because of his alleged predilection towards the group of Cathay Pacific Steel Co.

The NSC Labor Union (Naslu) claimed that Roxas disregarded the results of a bidding for control of NSC in May wherein Allengoal made the best lease offer of P20.5 million a month and 40 percent of the net profit as against Capasco's P20 million in monthly rental or 50 percent of net profit.

NSC's majority owner, Hottick-Renong Bhd., has been pushing for Allengoal's takeover since April 2000 while Capasco was being backed by NSC creditor banks led by Philippine National Bank, which is currently controlled by taipan Lucio Tan, a close ally of Capasco owners John Ng and Benjamin Chua.

In a statement, Naslu president Simplicio H. Villarta Jr. urged the President to take a direct hand in the reopening of NSC because "we believe that you have the noblest of intention but which may not be sincerely shared by those whom you have assigned to look (into the issue)."

Villarta accused Roxas, chair of the evaluation committee studying the bids, of agreeing to an extension of the submission of proposals for NSC (which is effectively a re-bidding set for Sept. 21 this year) as requested by PNB despite the objection by Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia R. Bautista.

Hottick-Renong had pulled out of the executive committee because it had decided to pursue the lease proposal made by Allengoal. Roxas, surprised by the Malaysians' decision, said he was trying to woo back the Malaysians back to the negotiating table together with the creditors.

In a statement issued yesterday, Roxas said Malaysian state holding company Danaharta and the group of five creditor-banks of NSC have reaffirmed their commitment to the continuation of the evaluation process for potential investors in NSC.

The Cagayan de Oro Chamber of Commerce (Oro Chamber) urged anew the Macapagal administration to fast-track the sale of National Steel Corp. in Iligan City.

The Oro Chamber said there was an immediate need to find buyers who could afford to rehabilitate NSC.

Oro Chamber president Jose Belen told the INQUIRER that delaying the rehabilitation could result to problems that might be damaging to the overall economic, social and political conditions of the country. ***With a report from PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Banks' bad loans hit all-time high

(From page B1)

of new businesses, an analyst explained.

Banks' coverage ratio in July also fell to 43.5 percent from 45 percent the previous month as the P947 million or 0.8-percent increase in loan-loss reserves was insufficient to cover for the 4.2-percent increase in NPLs.

The BSP documents showed that gross restructured loans rose to 6.9 percent of the total loan portfolio from 6.7 percent as restructured loans improved by P2.1 billion to P107.8 billion while the loan portfolio slid by 0.3 percent.

Banks foreclosed assets went up by 0.7 percent to P145.8 billion while total assets shrunk by 0.5 percent. This pushed banks' real and other properties owned or acquired to 4.82 percent of total assets from 4.77 percent a month ago.

Overall asset quality as measured by the banks' non-performing assets also deteriorated to 14 percent from 13.6 percent n June as bad assets rose by 3 percent to P424.15 billion while total assets slid by 0.5 percent to P3.02 trillion.

As the rise in bad assets outpaced a 0.7-percent increment in non-performing asset reserves to P128.4 billion, the coverage ratio for the bad assets dropped to 30.3 percent in July from the previous month's 30.9 percent.

Attack on American

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

THE FEUD among the children of the late Banco Filipino/BF Homes patriarch Tomas Aguirre has gotten physical, with the immigration bureau unfortunately providing the armed goons to browbeat one side, including a US national whose only crime was being married to an Aguirre.

The American husband of Nanette Aguirre, Christopher Koruga, spent Monday night at the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation after eight BID agents, on direct orders from BID Commissioner Andrea Domingo, picked up Koruga from his Malate home.

Koruga, an ex-Hollywood journalist, was detained on allegation that he was an "undesirable alien," mainly on the strength of a minor conviction two decades ago when he was fresh out of college.

The other pretext that the BID team cited was a judgment from a Seattle court for a recovery suit against the Korugas.

Now why would the BID dip its hands into a Seattle indebtedness case, and go to the extent of arresting an American who was not even the subject of an extradition request from Washington or any US agency?

The party suing the Korugas just happens to be Nanette's brother, Albert "Bobby" Aguirre, the rakish chairman of Banco Filipino whose favored nocturnal accoutrements are black-leather jacket and matching black pants and leather boots, a coterie of sweet little things, and a complement of armed bodyguards.

Bobby, by sheer force and character, has emerged to be the de facto administrator to the Aguirre fortune, and, like it or not, has shown grit and grim to navigate what until lately was the floundering family fortune through the treacherous shoals of the Philippine judiciary and business.

It also helps that Bobby is generous with the Aguirre money.

Despite his probably undeserved reputation, Bobby had the good sense to assemble competent advisers and executives to help resuscitate his father's empire, including now Supreme Court Justice Artemio Panganiban, Makati City Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., former Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod, retired Constabulary chief Ramon Montaño, former Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III, Carlos Soriano of the San Miguel fame, broadcaster Korina Sanchez, and former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa.

Bobby's suit against his sister and her husband in Seattle, where the Korugas live and run a retirement facility, seeks to recover $4 million that Bobby claims belongs to their father's estate.Nanette's defense is that the money had been given her by their father to ensure her "long-term security", she being the lone Aguirre child living in the United States and not dependent on Banco Filipino/BF Homes largesse for continuing support.

Nanette had wanted to offset the $4 million against her share in the multi-billion estate left by her father but Bobby beat her by winning the Seattle case first, ordering a foreclosure on Nanette and her American's husband's assets, an award worth $6.4 million including accumulated interests, in favor of the Aguirre estate.

COCKTALES/ B4

COUNTRY SHARES
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	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	-	1.75 M
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	800,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000 *
CAPITOL HILLS	125,000	130,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS	210,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000/620,000 **	400,000/450,000*/700,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	230,000	240,000/350,000*/450,000 **
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	350,000/400,000 *
METRO CLUB A/B*	-	175,000/180,000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,575,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	700,000/850,000 *
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000 **	250,000/425,000 *
QUEZON CITY SPORTS	220,000	230,000
RIVIERA GOLF A/B*	-	230,000/400,000 *
ROCKWELL CLUB	500,000	600,000
STA. ELENA GOLF	1,700,000	1,825,000
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	-	400,000/650,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	700,000	800,000
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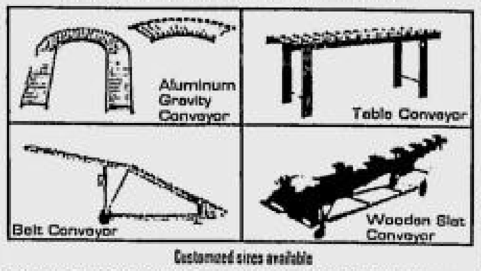
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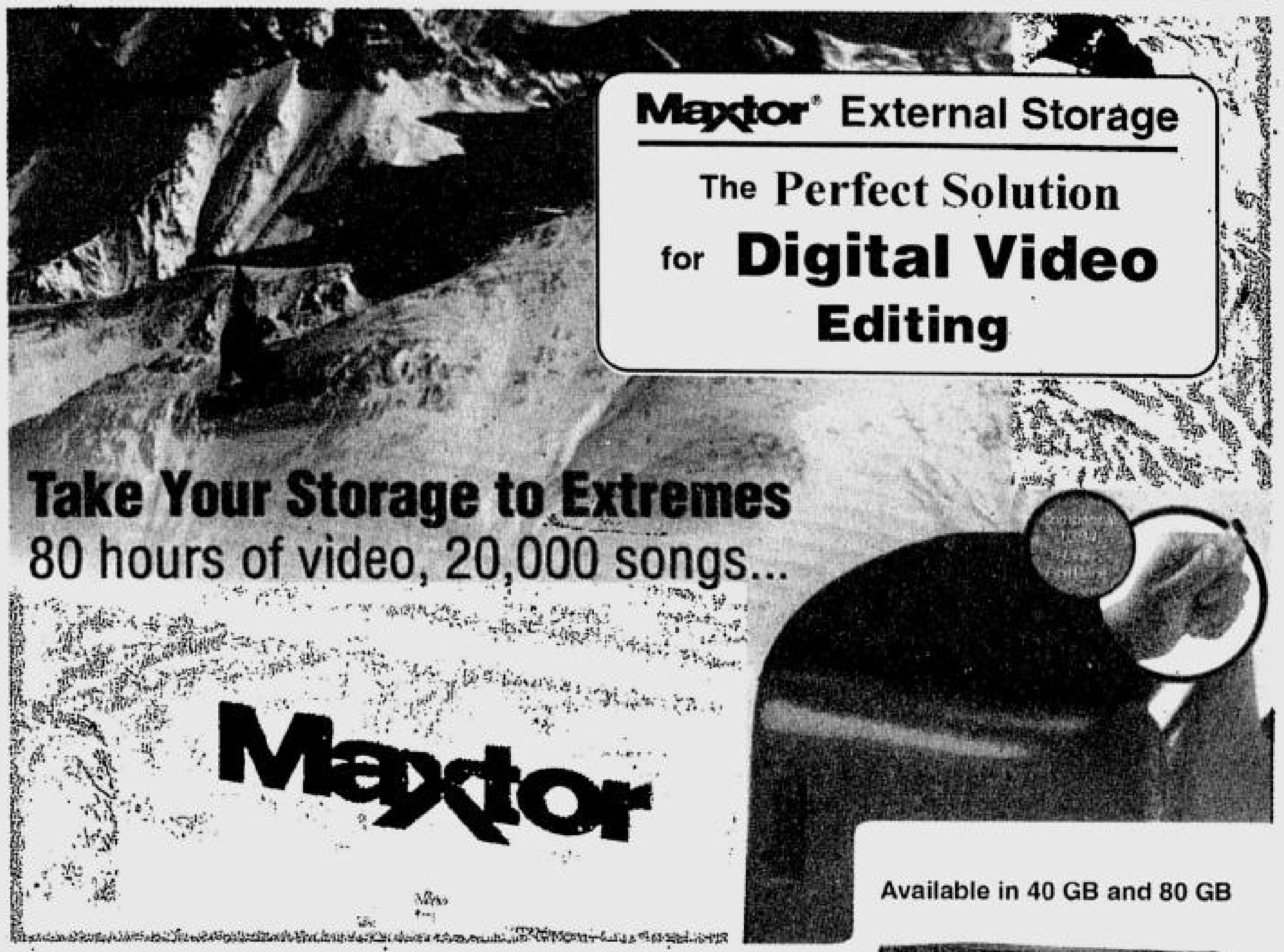
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Pangilinan quits PSE board

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan resigned Monday from the Philippine Stock Exchange board of governors due to differences with PSE president Ramon Garcia.

In a letter addressed to PSE chair Felipe Yap, Pangilinan said: "I cannot serve in an organization that questions my personal integrity and business ethics, and those of the companies I represent."

He added that he could not fathom why Garcia "would level such charges publicly against major listed corporations without benefit of a formal inquiry or due process."

Pangilinan was referring to the relocation of the bourse's office to Metro Pacific Corp.'s Fort Bonifacio Global City.

In a statement Monday, Garcia said the location of the PSE's new headquarters should be at the central business district of the Global City, as previously agreed upon in February, and not at its e-Square Zone.

Pangilinan emphasized: " I have deliberately inhibited myself from all matters relating to the relocation arrangements of the PSE to Fort Bonifacio. My recent absences from board meetings were meant to allow the board and the exchange an impartial forum to consider these matters fully and objectively."

However, he felt the PSE board did not give him and the Metro Pacific Group an opportunity to air their views before making the case public.

Now that he had already filed an irrevocable resignation, Pangilinan requested the PSE board to give him a chance to air his side as chair of the Metro Pacific Group and Fort Bonifacio Global Corp.

He assured the board that "our abiding intention has been to agree on a solution that is amicable and productive to both sides. Correlatively, it has never been the conduct of the First Pacific Group to renege on any of its commitments, for so long as those commitments have already crystalized into mutually legally binding obligations."

CURRENCIES

Sept. 18, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.081783	1.000000	51.2060
Japan	Yen	0.009182	0.008488	0.4346
United Kingdom	Pound	1.585461	1.465600	75.0475
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.138701	0.128215	6.5654
Switzerland	Franc	0.674050	0.623092	31.9060
Canada	Dollar	0.689122	0.637024	32.6195
Singapore	Dollar	0.624225	0.577034	29.5476
Australia	Dollar	0.543391	0.502311	25.7213
Bahrain	Dinar	2.869603	2.652661	135.8322
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.288460	0.266652	13.6542
Brunei	Dollar	0.622788	0.575705	29.4796
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000117	0.000108	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.024619	0.022758	1.1653
UAE	Dirham	0.294603	0.272331	13.9450
Korea	Won	0.000833	0.000770	0.0394
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.924400	47.3348
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.472638	24.2019
France	Franc	0.152450	0.140924	7.2162
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.419474	21.4796
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.067179	3.4400
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022915	1.1734
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000477	0.0244
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.155473	7.9612
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004611	0.2361
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005556	0.2845
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022915	1.1734
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.173746	60.1028

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CIRCULAR - LETTER

TO: ALL CONCERNED

Please be advised that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas recognizes only one "ISLAMIC BANK": the AL-AMANAH ISLAMIC INVESTMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES organized pursuant to R.A. No. 6848. It is owned by the National Government, the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System, the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Asset Privatization Trust (now the Privatization and Management Office), and is headed by Mr. Farouk A. Carpizo as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Its Executive Office is located at the Ground Floor, NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.

This clarification is issued in view of the existence of a bogus "ISLAMIC BANK" led by Mr. DAUD GABRIEL MANGOMPIA and a Sri Lankan variously known as AKAM ASHROFF GAFFOOR or ABDUL GAFFOOR ASHROOF, with office address at No. 3, Block 11, Marawi Avenue, Maharlika Village, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila. Another business address being used by this group is at the 30th Floor, Washington Tower, Asiaworld City, Paranaque, Metro Manila.

These individuals also refer to this so-called "ISLAMIC BANK" as the AL-AMANAH ISLAMIC INVESTMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES which they represent, however, to be a PRIVATELY-OWNED ISLAMIC BANK and invoke the same R.A. No. 6848 as its Charter.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has filed a complaint (I.S. No. 99-1806) with the Department of Justice against this bogus bank for violation of Sec. 6 of Republic Act No. 337 (The General Banking Act), which states:

> "No person, association or corporation not conducting the business of a commercial banking corporation, trust corporation, savings and mortgage bank, development bank, rural bank, savings and loan association, or building and loan association, as defined in this Act, or other banking laws, shall advertise or hold itself out as being engaged in the business of such bank, corporation, or association, or use in connection with its business title the word or words "bank", "banking", "banker", "building and loan association"' "savings and loan association", "trust corporation", "trust company", or words of similar import, or solicit or receive deposits of money for deposit, disbursement, safekeeping, or otherwise, or transact in any manner the business of any such bank, corporation or association, without having first complied with the provisions of this Act or other banking laws. For any violation of the provisions of this section by a corporation, the officers and directors thereof shall be punished by a fine of five hundred pesos for each day during which such violation is continued or repeated, and in default of the payment thereof, subsidiary imprisonment as prescribed by law".

The Department of Justice, in its Resolution dated February 6, 2001, indicted Messrs. Daud Gabriel Mangompia, Abdul Gaffoor Ashroof, et.al., for violation of the above-cited law in relation to Section 36 of R.A. No. 7653 (The New Central Bank Act) and approved the recommendation that a case be filed in court against the respondents.

(Sgd.) ALBERTO V. REYES
Officer-in-Charge

14 September 2001

Vantage mutual funds get approval of SEC

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the establishment of two open-end mutual funds by the Vantage group, documents from the government regulatory agency showed.

The Vantage PSE Index Fund Inc. and the Vantage Dollar Income Fund Inc. each had an authorized capital stock amounting to P100 million and consisting of 100 million common shares with a par value of P1 each.

The Vantage PSE Index Fund was designed to be a growth-oriented fund that would track and closely match the performance of the Phisix, the main barometer of the country's stock market, by buying and selling proportionate numbers of shares of the 33 stocks that comprise the index.

Out of the equity-oriented mutual fund's P100-million authorized capital base, P25 million has been subscribed and paid up while the remaining shares amounting to P75 million will be offered for sale to the public.

Cocktales

(From page B3)

Nanette's defense is that the money had been given her by their father to ensure her "long-term security," she being the lone Aguirre child living in the United States and not dependent on Banco Filipino/BF Homes largesse for continuing support.

Nanette had wanted to offset the $4 million against her share in the multi-billion estate left by her father but Bobby beat her by winning the Seattle case first, ordering a foreclosure on Nanette and her American husband's assets, an award worth $6.4 million including accumulated interests, in favor of the Aguirre estate.

To fend off Bobby's foreclosure proceedings, Nanette has declared bankruptcy in the United States.

And to support her claim that her share of inheritance is worth more than the $6.4 million that Bobby is trying to collect, Nanette has shown to the Parañaque court, which is still trying to discover the extent of the Aguirre estate more than five years after the father died, that the old man left billions, not only P130 million or P500 million as had been earlier been claimed by Bobby.

The Koruga couple flew back into the country in an effort to prevail on the Parañaque court to stop the Seattle judge from enforcing Bobby's claim. The two have also asked the Parañaque judge to partially distribute the Aguirre inheritance so that Nanette could pay off Bobby's claim in Seattle.

Privately, Bobby has been telling concerned friends that he merely wants Nanette and her husband to cry uncle, that he does not really intend to send his younger sister to the slammer.

Here is where the BID comes in.

In detaining Koruga, BID chief Andrea Domingo, a left-wing activist in her college days, has shown unilateral dispatch in trying to ship out Nanette's husband into a possible contempt and jail term being sought by Bobby in Seattle.

Until the BID action, the Aguirres had confined their feud within the courts, a nasty but private affair. Which had been so far, so good. If the Aguirres want to waste their life in courts and their inheritance on fat lawyers and judicial sharks, that is their problem.

But when a government agency, whose main job is to keep foreign terrorists and assorted ruffians out of these shores, instead rushes in to act as a private and partial nanny in a fight between rich spoiled kids, then you and I, this country, have a problem.

Heard through the grapevine

THE MEDAL-LESS Olympic boxing committee should consider taking Plaza Fair owner Danny Velasco into their folds for his previously undiscovered talent.

Aside from his business acumen and administrative ability, Velasco has the rare gift of quick temper and fancy jab work, if you believe the story and the bruises left on the body of a Maybelline promo girl.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, September 18, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	7,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	55.5	55.5	54	54.5	487,700
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	28	27	28	239,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	209	206	208	24,690
Philippine National Bank	51	53	51	53	115,100
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	2,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17	20	17	20	2,600
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	18.5	19	5,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.12	1.28	1.12	1.28	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1175	1185	1175	1185	1,930
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	30,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	920	985	920	985	3,130
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	28	28	28	28	11,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.41	0.41	40,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	650	640	650	3,300
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.46	30,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3.3	3	3.3	25,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	490	495	485	495	86,140
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.026	54,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	28	30	28	30	27,500
Manila Electric Co. B	40	40.5	39.5	40.5	669,900
Petron Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.4	1.46	2,793,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.8	1.88	1.8	1.88	268,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.39	250,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1,430,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	80,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.18	391,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	1.9	2	1.9	2	23,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	205,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	24,300
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	25	25	25	25	6,500
RFM Corp.	1.86	1.96	1.86	1.96	510,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	39.5	38.5	39	154,100
San Miguel Corp. B	49.5	50	49.5	50	106,800
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6	6	5.9	6	808,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	21,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.75	700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.74	0.76	0.72	0.75	100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	80,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	252,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	8,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.24	1.26	7,270,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	2,010,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	430,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26.5	27.5	26.5	27.5	202,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.105	0.11	850,000
Ionics Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.6	91,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.64	90,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.64	0.66	0.63	0.66	2,600,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,710,000
Music Corp.	0.9	0.95	0.9	0.95	80,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	50,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	40,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.23	0.23	350,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar De La Carlota	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1	63,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	50,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	60,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	110,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.25	10.75	10.25	10.5	39,200
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	490,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	860,000
Manila Jockey Club	18	18	18	18	2,500
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	29	29	28.5	28.5	123,200
DMCI Holdings Inc- Pref.	510	510	510	510	520
Globe Tel. A - Warrants	465	465	465	465	400
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	640	640	640	640	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10	10	10	10	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	500
Philweb.Com Inc -Warrants	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.008	122,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	4,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	7,609,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.185	1,800,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	230,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	960,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.78	2,645,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	40,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
SM Development Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	110,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	6,462,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	100,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.03	0.034	0.03	0.033	13,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	74,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	700,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	1,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	939,250	50,237,970.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	454,380,960	127,587,945.00
PRO	20,066,000	79,586,680.00
Mining	88,800,000	745,000.00
OIL	2,710,000	21,300.00
GRAND TOTALS :	566,896,210	258,178,895.00
	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	498.76	UP 6.99
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,689.78	UP 41.01
PRO	482.88	UP 14.28
Mining	1,212.37	UP 11.54
OIL	1.36	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	673.54	UP 16.54
Composite	1,206.38	UP 28.27

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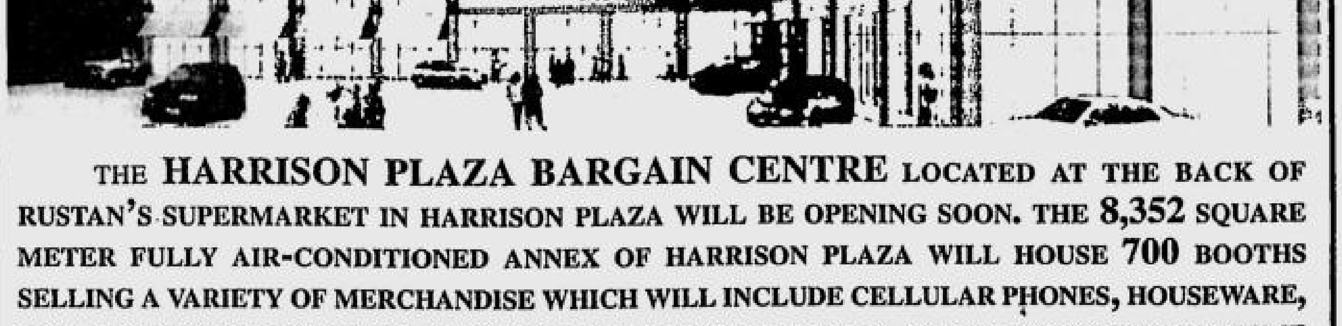

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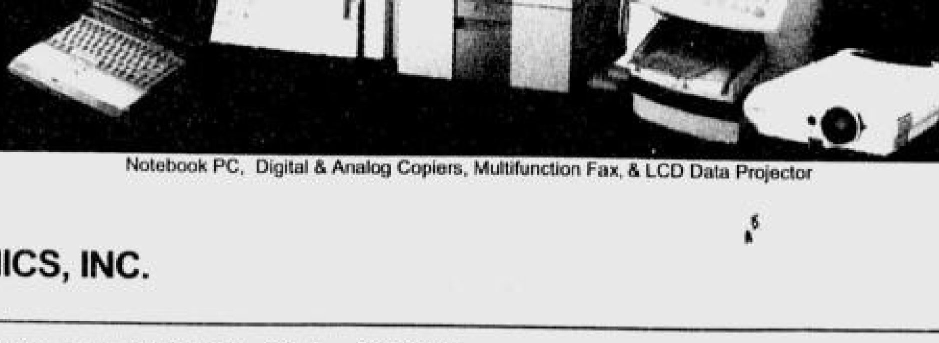

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Del Monte L-800m² V-LOT 928-1469

Fairview QC L-1000m² V-LOT 928-1469

Green Meadows 4BR 28M LA-805sqm • 412-1825

L-1800m² Visayas Ave QC Comm'l w/Income 928-1469

L-800m² Mindanao Ave QC Comml 928-1469

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

VARIOUS AREAS

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
near SM Bacoor
Initial DP: P 15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd.,
Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

FORTE REALTY
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Legaspi Village, Makati City
810-7183 810-8019
815-2144 829-5081
810-7297 872-7603
871-8318
Welcome Brokers & Agents write to
forterealty@skyinet.net

QUEZON CITY

Mindanao Ave Comml LOT L-800m² D-Buyer 928-1469

New Mla QC L-3082m² 928-1469 Direct Buyer

Proj 4 up/down 2BR 2TB 1Garage 0916-3862982

Robinson Subd. Bside Mall Novaliches 9612353 Johny

Rolling Hill New Mla L-258 2Stry 4BR 2Car 928-1469

Xaviervil P7.5M 915-5177

RIZAL

346m² N. Silanan 634-1212

800T-1M TERMS 20 mins FRM CUBAO Tel 4578389

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178143792

nr SnMateo 3T/mo 9978394

SAN JUAN

Ghills SEV P20M; 30M; 45M & Up • 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

•House & Lot For Sale•
240sqm Canlubang Laguna
Tel#:(049)5491095 or 1377

LAGUNA H/L 125m² Palo Alto Highlands1 Subd. Cal. Call Thelma 0917-9929206

Tagaytay L-249m² 2Stry 3BR 3TB 1CG 928-1469

Tagaytay L-286m² 2Stry 3BR 3TB 1CG 928-1469

OTHER AREAS

RUSH!CanyonWoods Btngas 6.5M 0919-2045695

LOT

LAS PINAS

Rush Sale Commercial Lot
Along Nat'l Rd Las Pinas
1hectare 8424213 8420335
8078225 DBO @ 4K

QUEZON CITY

CONG AVE CORNER 9210532

Greenmdows Nice 971m² Facing East • 6337601-03

L-406m² Short Horn Proj 8 Comm'l LOT 928-1469

Marcos Hiway Comm'l LOT L-317 V-LOT 928-1469

Tomas Morato Comml Lot 4 Sale • 6337601-03

•PROJ.6 900sqm 926-3307

Rollin Hills V-LOT L-725 Coner LOT 928-1469

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

RIZAL

Town & Country Exec Vill Marcos Hway Ph1 morning sun 395m² cor. lot Flood Free 6811766;09175281028

SAN JUAN

• Little Baguio •
300-500sqm • 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

Cavite Light Industrial Park
2yrs To pay w/o Interest
Along Maguyam Road
Carmona,Cavite
Tel # 635-8108 - ELOISA

Dasmarinas Cavite L-2774 Gd 4 Whse 928-1469

★TAGAYTAY SOTOGRANDE★
240m²-up hway nr club&entr
NO DP affordable 6588704

Malinta Bulacan L-7049m² V-LOT Alg H-way 928-1469

Nice Lot 5.3Hec Alfonso Road P700/m² 6337601-03

Open House Canyon Woods Invited Tagaytay 928-1469

Tagaytay w/View 5,802m² 2T/m² or Best Offer • 6337601-03

San Jose Vill Sta Rosa Laguna L-151 or 174 928-1469

Sherwood Cavite 345sqm Blk. 11 Lot 3 • 723-2391

Tagaytay 2Adj Lots 780sqm and 805sqm • 723-2391

Tanza Cavite LOT 5Hec Comm'l Lot 928-1469

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

ALABANG

Condo Aspen Tower 1BR Sale/Rent • 915-5177

LAS PINAS

BFR 1.7M 3BR 2TB 8428853

MANILA

Sampaloc apt 9.3M 9126833

MANDALUYONG

Condo Pioneer High Lands 3BR Sale/Rent • 915-5177

Madison Suites 2BR 4M Md's, Carpark • 412-1825

Madison Suites 1BR 2.6M 412-1825 • 0917-7914366

Madison Suites 2BR 3.9M 1BR 2.6M 412-1825

Wack Wack Royal Mansion P1.5M Studio 6337601-03

WackWack Townhomes 2BR 3M 5312021 0917-3955738

PASIG

Alexandra 3BR Semi-Furn FF • 633-7601 to 03

Crisanta Tower 634-1212

Pacific Place 2BR 101m² w/Prkg P4M • 6337601-03

RUSH! Renaissance 2000 DBO 2br+2tb 09178143792

Townhouse DJT Pasig 3BR • 915-5177

QUEZON CITY

A Modern Office - Residential Condominium
ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
nr Ateneo NCBA Mkt hosp R 50T 70T Move In 3yrs 0%int/ 5yr w/Jacussi sauna pool dresser cab Rhood Cell Big disc for CASH!
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Agent Accreditation 9-11am

Burgundy-Front of Ateneo Furnished 2br 0917-3955738

RUSH! TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

TH Ayala Montgomery 6M Up Nr. St. Lukes 915-5177

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

SikatunaCheap 466m² 7.0M Teachers 600m² Bung 4BR 4TB w/Bodega wideRd11.M Call 921-5479 ; 433-7194

RIZAL

ESLA URBAN TOWNHOUSES
Sto Domingo Cainta Near Junction 3Storey 126sqm 2BR w/ Attic 2T&B 2-Car Garage Ready 4 Occupancy (P1.5M Cash)EZ In-House Financing Call Mon.-Fri. Tel. 671-5749 • 671-5758

SAN JUAN

Platinum 1 FA-176 634-1212

OTHER AREAS

Condo Narra Hts. Mariposa Nice 3BR P5.2M • 915-5177

Townhouse Horseshoe 3BR Tel.# 915-5177

VARIOUS AREAS

Thse Woodside NMla 5.5M Up; DJT Pasig 3.5M 9155177

MEMORIAL LOT

FAMILY ESTATE 16 LOTS Himlayang B15/L57 6337601-03

Magnificat F. Boni 634-1212

FACTORY/WHSE

4000m² Beside SM City Along Edsa 928-1469

FARM/FISHPEN

ESL FARM LOTS
Palsara Baiete Batangas Subdivided 1000 sqm/Lot Blk Pepper Coffee Fruit Trees. Buyers Can Avail Resort Facilities at Disctd Rates Call Office Mon-Fri
671-5749 • 671-5758
Scheduled Tripping

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

1BR 1T&B P6T 732-3957

APT.RENT 09196547715 MLA

HOUSE

MARIKINA

Loyola Subd. 12T 948-8105

PASIG

Dona Juana Subd. Pasig P4.1M 3BR • 915-5177

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Regency Salcedo Village Penthse P125T • 915-5177

STUDIO FF
Makati 17K
•759-4091•752-2580•
•840-7388•0917-8381928•

PASIG

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1&2 Bedrooms
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QUEZON CITY

BANAWE 10T 2BR 2588019

Burgundy Loyola Katip. Pkg 2BR P25T • 915-5177

Burgundy Loyola Katip. Pkng 2BR 25T 915-5177 / 0917-5325440

Prince David Loyola 1BR P2.5M • 915-5177

Thse Woodside New Mla. Tel # 915-5177

URGENTLY NEEDED

SALES SUPERVISORS / TFS

(Basic + Commissions, Overrides, Bonuses etc.)

- M/F
- Pleasing personality
- Preferably from reputable schools
- Good communication skills
- With experience in direct sales of books, vacuum cleaners, air and water purifiers, foot massager, and other household durables or pre-need plans.

Please come for interview TODAY, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or TOMORROW, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. ONLY.

ELECTROLIFE, PHILS.
Electrolife Building
187 B. Serrano St., cor. P. Jacinto St.
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(near corner EDSA, across MCU)

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STEEL SCAFFOLDINGS,
CONTAINER VAN MOBILE OFFICE &
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Grade 60, 28 & 32mm
Call Jho Tel # 723-8408

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

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Studio Units for Rent P12T++
1-Bdr P14T++ Unfurn/Furn.,
24hrs. Sec. Serv. Loc. No. 2&3
Don Bosco St., Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Call: 818-4197 • 815-4717

SAN JUAN

Condo LPL Greenhills 1BR Furn P17T • 915-5177

G'hills 1BR P16T 2-3BR P25-35T 723-2391 • 0917-3848111

G'hills 3BR Bung P50T 723-2391

OTHER AREAS

PACIFIC PLAZA FORT Condo • 915-5177

Paragon Plaza EDSA 2BR P33T FF • 915-5177

FOR LEASE

Comml Lot N. Domongo SJ w/Whse LA1600 • 915-5177

Ortigas Center 250-1000m² @ 250/m² • 412-1825

VLot Edsa Manda LA245m² 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

BUSINESS RENTAL

Edsa Manda LA 2450m² 915-5177 / 0917-5325440

G/F Ayala Offices T818-1696

Medical Plz Ortigas 40 60 75m² 4121825 09177914366

Centerpoint - Ortigas Ctr 170m² Sale/Rent 4121825

Jollibee Plaza ofc units 80-150m² 412-1825

Prestige Twr 65sqm A/C Lights 1Carpk • 412-1825

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

G.Saloon '98 265T 4330568

KIA

HI-BESTA '99 265T 9257622

★ P235T up★
Grace, Besta, Pregio
good running condition loaded
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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

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FREE CHECK-UP! 8am-7pm
GUARANTEED SERVICE
for your car needs and trouble call or see
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RUBBERVOLT 3716783

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

BNew Pregio L3 826-1045

BrdalMB/Vans9296250;4535288

Van Coaster Bus 913-91-23

HIACE URVAN MB 825-7135

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

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2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

100/50KVA genset 3672002 Kubota trctors 50t 3610215

HOME APPLIANCE

National Split Type yr 2000 good as bnew P22T 3ton Carrier Condura 99 P35T cieling mounted Packg 5ton P55 7.5tons P60T 9219465 4262970 4554061

PETS

DALMATIAN DOGS
Tel No. 942-1742

Dog Trainer 09192050952

MALE ROTT PUP SHOWQTY Bighead 3 1/2 mos. 363933

Dearest Angel,

I can still remember yesterday
We were so in love in a special way
Knowing that your love can make me feel
all so right
Now I feel lost don't know what to do
each & everyday I think of you
Holding back the tears,
I'm trying with all my might.

I wish that it could be just like before
I know I could have given you
so much more
Even though you know
I've given you all my love
I miss your smile, I miss your kiss
each & everyday I ever miss
Each day is you,
I've always been dreaming off.

Letting go is never easy
But I love you so that's why I'll set you free
I hope someday, somehow I'll find a way
to leave it behind me
Coz I guess it wasn't meant to be.

Because you're gonna leave me
standing all alone
And I know I've got to face tomorrow
on my own
But before I let you go, I want to say
I LOVE U
I hope that you're listening coz its true
You'll be forever in my heart
And I know no one else will do
Before I let you go I want to say I Love You.

Sincerely,
Hon

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF VENEREOLOGISTS, INC.
Invites you to its
4th Post Graduate Course
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SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION and HIV/AIDS
"Information Explosion on STIs... Power to Change"
at
Manila Galleria Suites Ortigas Center,
Pasig City
September 20-21, 2001

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **MR. ALLORD A. DELA CRUZ** has been terminated for cause from Emery Transnational Air Cargo Corporation effective March 16, 2001.

Any transaction made through him since said date will not be honored by the Company.

(PDI – Sept. 19, 2001)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City, Philippines
Fax No. 8958322 8954024
Tel. Nos. 8976682 8953987

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of ACCOUNTMATE PHILIPPINES CORP. with address at 2nd Floor, NK Building, H. Cortes St., Banilad, Mandaue City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended by Republic Act 7918 as New Information Technology Service Firm in the Field of Application Software Development at a capacity of 58,000 Man-Hours Per Year and with proposed plant site at 2nd Floor, NK Building, H. Cortes St., Banilad, Mandaue has been officially accepted on August 30, 2001 and is currently being proposed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) CHITA O. ANGELES
Director
Legal Services Department

(PDI--Sept. 19, 2001)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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Siberian Husky
Male 3 Months 20 Thou
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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

SPORTING GOODS

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

STRIKEMASTER
Bowling & Billiards
Sales & Rentals T-9341569

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

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others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

ID strap LogoPin 656-8605

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Christian Social Worker Call 913-0115

Doctors & Skin Therapists w/ Exp. Call Naty or Josie 721-9227 or 721-9228

Domestic Helper Dressmaker Int'l Cook **•5623962•**

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MALE/FEMALE

Adm. Ofc.Staff 9134470 RJ

Adm Staff 9134470 Adonis

CARE GIVER T5280722

***Direct Hire Ofc Staff* 9134470 Start ASAP Ms. Fe**

LEMY JEWELRY Phils. Inc. Urgent:Male or Female •SALES EXECUTIVE• w/experience Pls. Call (049)5491095 or 1377

OFC STAFF 4376847 Joyce

•Ofc Staff 9134470 Daisy•

Ofc Staff 9134470 Helen

•Urg• Off staff 9134470 •Mark•

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Urgent Ofc Staff - Exp. Not Reqd Lk4 Ms Ivy 7492993

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late **ANGELITO U. POLINTAN** is extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc#250, Page #52, Series of 2001 under Not. Pub. Felix D. Rodriguez of Mkt. Dec. 31.
(PDI-Sept. 12, 19 & 26, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of Lolita N. Alcantara was extrajudicially settled by the heirs per Doc. # 330, Page # 67, Book # XI, Series of 2001 of Notary Public for Pasig City, Eutacio V. Flores. (PDI-Sept. 19, 26 & Oct. 3, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that Class A Share No. A00323 dated 4 May 1977 Calatagan Golf Club, Inc. under the name of Jose Ramiscal Jr. was lost (PDI-Sept. 5, 12, 19, 2001)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

TYT '2000 4-wheel drive
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PROPERTIES AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Ref. No.	Location	Lot Area (sq.m.)	Floor Area (sq.m.)	Indicative Price
METRO MANILA				
MM-B0798	No 15 A. Luna St., Proj 4, Quezon City, TCT No. (294028) PR-12068	172.3	195	4,000,000.00
MM-B0729	Lot 7 Block 8 Capitoline Hills (A. Trinidad) St., Italia 500, BF Resort Vil., Las Pinas City, TCT No (T-35517) T-75154	337	183	4,000,000.00
MM-B0799	No. 2525 M. Roxas St., Sta. Ana, Manila. TCT No. 225888	167.8	157	3,077,000.00
MM-B0800	No 31 Pardo De Tavera St., corner Pinpin St., Brgy Sto Niño, Galas, Quezon City, TCT No. N-206981 (RT-42664)	199	124	2,700,000.00
MM-B0801	No. 1372-C Newton St., Bgy. San Isidro, Makati City, TCT No. 199414	67	110	2,650,000.00
MM-B0802	No. 7 Caras de Andalucia Townhomes, Visayas Ave., Tandang Sora, Quezon City. TCT No. N-192686 (RT-82052)	112	112	2,600,000.00
MM-B0803	Unit 4-F Consolidated Mansions, South Super Highway, Makati City, CCT No. (S-1711) 69158	-	110	2,500,000.00
MM-B0804	No. 23 Progreso St., Tugatog, Malabon, Metro Manila, TCT No. (M-8459) M-16543	240	172	2,200,000.00
MM-B0805	Lot 31 Blk 70 Yuan St., North Fairview Subd., Phase 8, Quezon City, TCT No. 114047	300		1,500,000.00
MM-B0806	No. 5 Lualhati St., Doña Damiana Vil., Rosario, Pasig City, TCT No. PT-114110 (PT-76560)	163.5	93	1,300,000.00
MM-B0807	Unit P-A Iriga Terrace Condominium, Iriga City, La Loma, Quezon City, CCT No. 24886		36.3	1,100,000.00
LUZON				
MM-B0808	Guijo St., Bunsuran, Pandi, Bulacan, TCT No 60848	567	293	1,800,000.00
LU-B0809	Lot 1 Block 9, Emerald corner Ruby Sts., Oro Vista II Subd., Antipolo, Rizal, TCT No. 303450	148	71	1,100,000.00
LU-B0810	Lot 1 & 2 Block 5, Diamond corner Pearl Sts., Phase III, Perpetual Village 7, Malumot, Bacoor, Cavite, TCT No.T-286723 & T-286724	128 & 120	90	960,000.00
LU-B0811	Lot 6-D-4 Prince St., Kingsville Subd., Mayamot, Antipolo, Rizal, TCT No. 379134 (271613)	50	62	900,000.00
LU-B0812	Lot 18, Block 1, Pomelo St., Valley View Executive Vil. Phase II-B, Antipolo City, TCTNo. 232502	120		410,000.00
MINDANAO				
MI-B0813	Lot 2-B-2-1-8 Garnet St., Morales Vil., Matina, Davao City, TCT No. T-320848	400		500,000.00
MI-B0814	Lot 12-F Sitio Kaimito, Purok 6, Babak, Garden City of Samal, TCT No. T-160357	600	-	200,000.00
MI-B0815	Lot 12-G-1 Sitio Kaimito, Purok 6, Babak, Garden City of Samal, TCT No. T-160358	300		100,000.00

For further inquiry and prescribed forms, please visit us at 8th Floor Acquired Assets Administration & Sales Division, PNB Financial Center Roxas Blvd., Pasay City or call and ask for the following officers:

Manny Severino	MM-B0798, MM-B0729, MM-B0800, MM-B0802, MM-B0804, MM-B0806, MM-B0807, MM-B0808, LU-B0809, LU-B0810, LU - B0811, LU-B0812	891-6040 Local 4333 5263406
Ronnie Antonio	MM-B0801, MM-B0803, MM-B0805, MI-B0813, MI-B0814, MI-B0815	891-6040 Local 4333 5263531
Chito Bustamante	MM-B0799	891-6040 Local 4707 5263361

Sealed offer/s to buy must be submitted to the above officer not later than 4.30 P.M., September 28, 2001. The offer/s must be labeled Ref. No. 09/19 & 21/2001- AAASD.

The above properties are available for sale on cash or installment and on an " As is, where Is" basis.

Highest and acceptable bid is subject to approval by the Bank's appropriate approving committee.

PNB reserves the right to withdraw any and/or all the foregoing properties from the above list at any time before the deadline for submission of offers or any other purposes.

ACQUIRED ASSETS ADMINISTRATION & SALES DIVISION

Member PDIC

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Learn the principles of quality Jewelry Design from the world's #1 gemological institute
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Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Eleventh Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fourth day of July, two thousand.

Republic Act No. 9151

An act to abolish the Apiculture Training and Development Center at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, Municipality of Bacnotan, Province of La Union, and create the National Apiculture Research, Training and Development Institute, authorizing the appropriations of funds therefor, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. The Apiculture Training and Development Center is hereby abolished. In its stead, the National Apiculture Research, Training and Development Institute, hereinafter referred to as the Institute, based at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) in the Municipality of Bacnotan, Province of La Union, is hereby established.

Section 2. All functions, equipment, facilities, supplies, records and personnel of the Apiculture Training and Development Center are hereby transferred to the Institute.

Section 3. The Institute shall have the following general power and functions consistent with the research, extension and development programs of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Economic and Development Authority, and the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University.

(a) Educate and train beekeepers and apiculturists;
(b) Conduct researches; and
(c) Extend technologies.

Section 4. The Institute shall have the following specific powers and functions:

(a) Establish and develop bee breeding facilities capable of producing good quality queen bees needed in its training, research and extension programs;
(b) Develop, verify and package appropriate apiculture technologies national application;
(c) Establish proper quality control systems for honeybee products and by-products and standards for beekeeping tools and equipment;
(d) Develop, design and fabricate beekeeping tools and equipment using local materials;
(e) Establish wax mills for processing wax foundations sheets out of locally-produced wax from native and exotic honeybee species;
(f) Develop effective, efficient technologies for pollen wax, propolis and royal jelly production;
(g) Establish and develop model beekeeping communities;
(h) Establish and maintain regional satellite centers to serve as extension, research and training arms of the Institute;
(i) Establish appropriate and efficacious pest management programs;
(j) Develop appropriate, and effective beekeeping extension strategies and approaches;
(k) Educate farmers to increase/improve crop yield and quality through bee pollination;
(l) Utilize beekeeping technologies to revolutionize reforestation, agroforestation, forest protection, rehabilitation and beautification programs; and
(m) Establish and define the organizational structure, duties of officials and personnel of the Institute.

Section 5. The Institute shall be headed by a Director who shall be responsible for the planning, implementation and supervision of the program and activities of the Institute. He shall be appointed by the Board of Regents of the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University upon recommendation of the University President. All other officers and employees shall be appointed by the Director of the Institute, in accordance with the Civil Service Law.

Section 6. The plans and programs of the Institute shall be reviewed and recommended annually by an Advisory Board composed of the following:

(a) The Secretary of Agriculture as *ex officio* Chairman;
(b) The President of the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, as *ex officio* Vice Chairman;
(c) The Secretary of Science and Technology as *ex officio* Member;
(d) The Secretary of Trade and Industry, as *ex officio* Member;
(e) The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, as *ex officio* Member;
(f) The Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority, as *ex officio* Member;
(g) The Executive Director Forestry and Natural (PCARRD), as *ex officio* Member;
(h) The Director of the National Apiculture Research, Development Institute, as *ex officio* Secretary;
(i) One (1) representative from the local beekeeping/beefarm industry, as Member; and
(j) One (1) member from the non-government organization concerned with the apiculture industry.

Section 7. The presence of five (5) members at the time of the meeting shall constitute a quorum: *Provided, however,* That the Chairman or in his absence, the Vice Chairman, shall preside.

Section 8. For the purpose of research and development activities of the Institute, researchers and support personnel of other related agencies may be detailed to the Institute upon the request of the Director of the Institute and subject to the approval of the Board of Regents of the University: *Provided, however,* That such personnel shall be paid *honoraria* for their services.

Section 9. The Institute is hereby authorized to plan, construct, develop, improve, acquire, or lease buildings, farms, fields and other facilities, to purchase machineries, equipment, materials and supplies locally or abroad as may be necessary to carry out its functions and objectives. Moreover, the Institute shall enjoy exemption from taxes and other duties in the importation of such machineries, equipment, materials and supplies required in its research, development and training programs, subject to the provisions of Section 105 (s) of the Tariff and Customs Code, Section 103 (f) of the National Internal Revenue Code and the provisions on automatic appropriations under the General Appropriations Act.

Section 10. The main offices, apiary, bee pasture development, demonstration and experimental areas, and the nursery of the Institute shall be situated at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University campus in Bacnotan, La Union. The Institute may hereafter establish similar facilities, or satellite centers, in other service areas in the country in order to promote the development of apiculture in the countryside.

Section 11. The amount of Twenty million pesos (P20,000,000.00) shall be appropriated from the Office of the President.

Section 12. The Institute may generate other funds from local and foreign sources and may enter into collaborative agreements with other government organizations to supplement its government-allocated funds.

Section 13. All expenditures and disbursements of funds made by the Institute in the conduct of its training, research and development activities shall be subject to existing auditing and accounting rules and regulations.

Section 14. Any and all savings and income of the Institute shall constitute a revolving fund which shall not be reverted to the General fund and which shall be used by the Institute to further pursue its objectives.

Section 15. *Repealing Clause* -- All existing laws, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, superseded or modified accordingly: *Provided, however,* That nothing in this Act shall amend, modify or repeal the provisions of Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known and cited as the Local Government Code of 1991.

Section 16. *Effectivity.* -- This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days of its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.
President of the Senate

FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR.
Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which is a consolidation of House Bill No. 10594 and Senate Bill No. 2199 was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on June 6, 2001 and June 5, 2001, respectively.

LUTGARDO B. BARBO
Secretary of the Senate

ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General House of Representatives

Approved: **August 10, 2001**

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

(PDI - Sept. 19, 2001)

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

AD FOUNDATION GETS DONATION

The Advertising Foundation of the Philippines, the social development institution of the industry for values education and industry development, recently received two upgraded computer units from Nestle Philippines Inc., one of the foundation founding pillars. Nestle senior vice president and communications director Pedro N. Dy-Liaco, Jr. and Sandra Puno, vice president for media relations (center right) turned over the Compaq computer units to Linda C. Gamboa, foundation assistant board secretary and executive director, (center left). Witnessing the turn-over are foundation officers and committee officials (from left) Jose Rafael Hernandez, Foundation membership committee chair; Yolanda Ibarle, Foundation trustee for Mores; Mila Llorin, Foundation vice chair; Arnedo Lucas, foundation treasurer and trustee for Asap; Danny Gozo, foundation secretary and trustee for sustaining/academe members; Antonio Samson (partly hidden), foundation trustee and former foundation chair; Johnip Cua, Foundation international relations officer; Roberto Barreiro, Foundation trustee; Ed Sunico, media communications manager of Unilever Phils.; Lucien Dy-Tioco, chair of Prado; Amar Gambol (partly hidden), Foundation educational development committee chair; KBP chair Joselito Yabut, Foundation comptroller; and Jose Enrique Estrada, Foundation trustee. The Ad Foundation has done some 220 endeavors on values education, industry and trade development, social research, voters education, environmental campaigns and concerns along national development goals that promote culture, people and country.

NOTRE DAME CUM LAUDE

MICHAEL L. Sarmiento, the third of four children of Manny and Zenny Lutao-Sarmiento graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Master of Science in Accountiing, Magna Cum Laude. His class also voted him for outstanding scholastic achievement and leadership. Michael graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree, major in Accounting, from the University of California, Berkeley. He is now working with Ernst and Young as a public accountant headquartered in Paolo Alto, California. He is married to the former Angela Wymess of Malawi, Africa and Federal Way, Washington. They are currently busy decorating their first home at Broderick St. in San Francisco, California.

CAINTA KIWANIS CLUB INDUCTION

The Kiwanis Club of Cainta Greenpark (Key No. 11474) recently held its 16th anniversary and induction rites for its officers and new members at the Riverbend Hotel, Marikina City. The newly inducted officers are, (from left) Ruben Aque, first vice president; Nes Raquipiso, treasurer; Jun Figuracion, president; Bobet Alip, assistant treasurer; Jun Samballilo, second vice president; Lory Estrada, assistant secretary; Boy Enriquez, secretary; Rolly Morta, PRO; Marvin Angeles, director; Dodie Gonzalo, PRO; Rey Torrecampo, director; Efren Villarosa, director; Joe Cayanan, director; and Freddie Trillana, director.

ASSOCIATION OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (ASEP)

40th Anniversary Celebration

Valle Verde Country Club, Capt. Henry Javier St., Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City
September 19, 2001

M E S S A G E S

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Message

It is with distinct pleasure that I convey my warmest felicitations to the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines, Inc. (ASEP) on its 40th Anniversary and Induction Ceremonies.

The holding of this momentous event with the theme, *"ASEP: Assuring Structural Safety through Sound Engineering Practice,"* echoes the strong commitment of the ASEP in upgrading the technical capabilities of Filipino structural engineers in response to the socio-economic realities of the 21st century. As structural engineers, you have the primary task of providing economical, safe and aesthetic infrastructure that is vital to national development.

The role of structural engineers in providing a more systematized and dynamic society for our people comes to fore in a rapidly changing and modernizing environment. This responsibility is increasingly challenged as the country takes cognizance of the urgent problems in electrification, urban congestion and burgeoning urban population. I am calling on the ASEP and its members to assist the new administration in alleviating the lives of millions of Filipinos through effective and efficient rural infrastructure development.

The government welcomes the efforts of organizations like the ASEP in nation building. I look forward to your positive contributions so that together we will rebuild our nation towards greater peace, prosperity and stability.

Congratulations to the new officers. *MABUHAY!*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Tanggapan ng Kalihim

Message

I wish to convey my heartfelt greetings to the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines, Inc. (ASEP) on the occasion of your 40th Anniversary and Induction Ceremony of your 2001-2002 Officers and Directors.

Your theme, *"ASEP: Assuring Structural Safety through Sound Engineering Practice"* exemplifies your steadfast devotion to bring growth, development, safety and security to our nation. Through your expertise, professionalism and frontline participation in infrastructure projects, you have made invaluable contributions in the genuine advancement and improvement of the lives of our countrymen.

As a reliable partner of the Philippine government in community and economic development projects, it is my fervent hope that you continue to pursue your worthwhile endeavors with renewed sense of commitment and dedication.

With my best regards.

ANGELO T. REYES
Secretary

Message

Greetings to the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines, Inc. (ASEP) on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary Celebration on September 19, 2001 with the theme: "Assuring Structural Safety Through Sound Engineering Practice."

The task of ensuring the safety of the populace is the paramount concern of civil engineers particularly those whose specialization is Structural Engineering. To give meaning to this task, PICE has embarked on the institutionalization of the specialization in the various fields of civil engineering initially: Structural Engineering, Geotechnical Engineering, Transportation Engineering, Water Engineering and Construction Management and Engineering.

In this way, the civil engineers' continuing professional development, identification of expertise and competence building are established. The accreditation of Specialist Members in these fields has commenced. I therefore urge the members of ASEP, a close affiliate association of PICE to be part of this accreditation process.

This is the challenge we face as we usher in our 41st year of existence.

Long live ASEP! Congratulations to all members!

[illegible]
PICE President &
ASEP Past President

Message

My warmest greeting to all the members of the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines as we celebrate our 40th Anniversary!

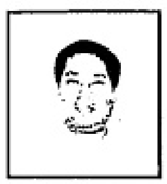
While I am privileged to steer our organization at a time when the economic condition of our country leaves much to be desired, the Board of Directors of the Association is one with me in dedicating the 40th year of our existence to the avowed task of assuring structural safety through sound engineering practice. The main task ahead of us in the Board is focused on continuing professional education and development among our members as well as those who have not as yet joined us. As a more active membership in the association holds the key to the attainment of this and other objectives that we have aimed at for the coming year, the maximum benefits that the association can provide its members are also of foremost consideration in our endeavors.

Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to lead our association this year.

ROMEO A. ESTAÑERO, Ph.D, F. ASEP F. PICE
President

ASEP OFFICERS
and DIRECTORS
2001-2002

Romeo A. Estañero Ph.D
President



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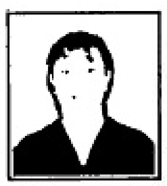
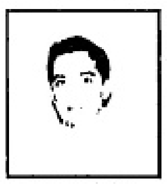
Vice-President



Engr. Miriam Lusica Tamayo
Secretary



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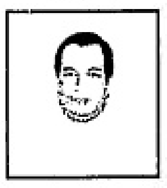
Treasurer



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Engr. Joseph Ramil I. Manalo
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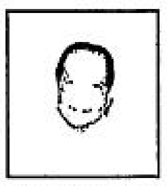

Engr. Cesar C. Pabalan
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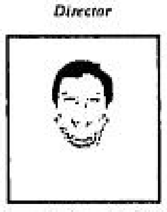
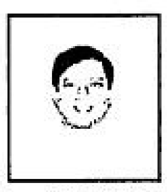


Engr. Anthony Vladimir C. Pimentel
Director



Engr. Alberto C. Cañete
Immediate Past President

PROGRAMME

6:00 PM
Registration

7:00 PM
Fellowship, Dinner & Entertainment

8:00 PM
Invocation
National Anthem
Welcome Remarks
Inaugural Address
Treasurer's Report
Induction of New Members
Induction of New Fellows
Valedictory Address

AWARDING CEREMONY

Awarding of Plaque of Appreciation
Awarding of Presidential Citations
Leadership Award

10:00 PM
Fellowship

Roleza Jean V. Marzan and
Joseph Ramil I. Manalo
Master of Ceremonies

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Coordinated policy campaign under way

SINGAPORE—A week after the attacks on the United States shook faith in the global economy, a coordinated campaign of monetary and fiscal easing is in full swing.

And while the battle against imminent recession may have already been lost, analysts hope the war for growth could yet end with a forceful recovery.

On Monday the Federal Reserve led a round of rate cuts from the European Central Bank, the Bank of Canada, the Swiss National Bank and Sweden's Riksbank.

In Asia on Tuesday the de facto central bank of Hong Kong was the first to follow, cutting its rates by 50 basis points to 4.5 percent, and Taiwan quickly eased by a matching amount.

The Philippines called an emergency policy meeting, which was expected to result in a similar move, while analysts assumed Singapore would guide its dollar lower in the equivalent of a monetary easing.

Expectations were high that the Bank of Japan, the guardian of the world's second biggest economy, would also ease after it announced it was ending its policy meeting a day early.

And with the Fed indicating a clear willingness to cut yet further, analysts see little choice but for the world to follow.

"J.P. Morgan is now expecting the fed fund to bottom out at 2 percent by early next year," said David Fernandez, vice president at J.P. Morgan Chase in Singapore.

That was a bold call given the funds rate is a full percentage point higher and has already been cut eight times this year from 6.5 percent. Indeed, the funds rate has not been under 3 percent since the halcyon days of the early 1960s when high growth and low inflation were an everyday fact of life.

"So other central banks are likely to be under the same kind of pressure," added Fernandez. *Reuters*

IMF, World Bank agree to scrap annual meetings

WASHINGTON—The IMF and World Bank scrapped their Sept. 29-30 annual meetings here Monday as police struggled with the aftermath of terror strikes on the United States.

The International Monetary Fund and World Bank said they had canceled the meetings after consulting with US President George W. Bush's administration.

Finance ministers and central bank chiefs from around the world had expected to join the meetings to review the direction of the fragile global economy, which now faces the risk of outright recession as the attacks threaten to depress US consumers.

But the authorities decided to cancel the gathering so as not to divert the police from the disaster to the task of protecting the high-ranking policymakers in Washington.

"This decision was taken out of deepest respect and sympathy for the families of all those touched by the horrific events of last Tuesday, and in order to dedicate law enforcement personnel fully to the extraordinary and immediate priorities at hand," IMF managing director Horst Koehler and World Bank president James Wolfensohn said in a joint statement.

The two institutions said they were making unspecified alternative arrangements for running their business.

"The normal business of the Bank and the Fund will not be interrupted," they vowed. "We expect to return to the normal schedule for the WB and IMF meetings in 2002. *AFP*

Oil market 'balanced,' Opec says

CARACAS, Venezuela—World oil markets look balanced despite market speculation after the terror attacks in the United States, Opec's secretary-general said Monday.

"There has been and still is a lot of speculation, but I would say the market is still balanced," Ali Rodriguez told Dow Jones Newswires by telephone from Opec headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

"Prices went up due to nervousness, but they likely will reverse that trend a bit," he said.

Rodriguez, a former Venezuelan oil minister, said he didn't know if Opec will reverse a one-million barrel a day production cut it implemented on Sept. 1. Opec ministers are meeting in Vienna on Sept. 26.

"It's still too early to decide on that. We need a clear picture on the demand side. We could have an increase (in demand) due to seasonal effects, but we can't ignore the negative impact of a possible recession of the world and US economy," he said.

Rodriguez said he had assured US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham on Sunday that Opec was committed to market stability, "just as we have shown over the past two years."

Kuwait's News Agency quoted a Kuwaiti oil official on Monday as saying that Opec was prepared to accept a price of between $20 and $22 a barrel, lower than Opec's target price of $22 to $28 a barrel. Rodriguez declined to comment on the report.

Crude oil prices soared to more than $30 a barrel in London immediately after the Sept. 11 attacks. The value of Opec's basket of seven crude oils averaged $27.36 per barrel Friday, up from $26.23 per barrel Thursday, Opec's news agency said Monday.

Opec produces 40 percent of the world's oil. *AP*

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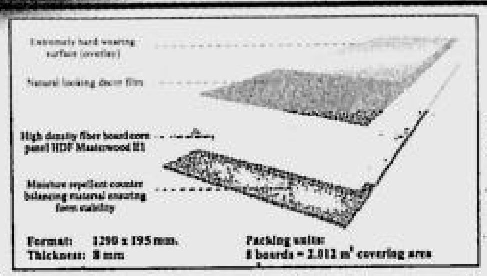
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2. Upon receiving the "Prize Card", simply scratch the silver portion and you have a chance of winning some prizes. If a prize is revealed you must surrender your winning "Prize Card" to the redemption booth located at the lobby to claim your prize.
3. Just in case no prize is indicated, you still have the chance of winning in the raffle draw. Just write your name, address, telephone number and signature on the "Prize Card" and drop it in the drop box on the day of purchase or not later than 8:00 p.m., Sunday, September 23, 2001. "Prize Card" must bear the signature of an authorized MC representative before dropping it in the drop box.
4. The Raffle Draw will be held on Wednesday, September 26, 2001 at MC Home Builders' Depot - Makati in the presence of a DTI representative at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.
5. A participant can only win once. Should a winner's name be drawn more than once, the prize with the higher value shall be awarded to him/her.
6. All prizes are non-transferable and non-convertible to cash.
7. Winners will be notified by phone and registered mail. All prizes must be claimed at the Administration Office of MC Home Builders' Depot at Mantrade, Pasong Tamo corner Edsa with Tel. 8933070.
8. To claim their prizes, winners must present the letter of notification from MC Home Builders' Depot, a valid ID (i.e.) passport, driver's license, SSS/TIN Card for verification purposes.
9. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall automatically be forfeited with prior approval from the DTI.
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JOSE ANTONIO YAP ANGELES

of Angeles City

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 16, 2001 at the age of 63.

His bereaved wife **Victoria F. Lazatin-Angeles**; children **Ma. Loreto** and **Romel Canlas**, **Ma. Barbara** and **Joaquin Narciso**, **Andrew** and **Unika**, **Rafael** and **Leah Marie**, **Agustin** and **Maricel**, **Augusto** and **Noemi**, **Mary Ann** and **Ramon del Rosario**, and **Ma. Corazon** and **Joseph Pineda**; brother **Emmanuel**; sisters **Rosario**, **Lutgarda**, **Jesusa**, **Josefina** and **Lourdes**; sister-in-law, brothers-in-law, sons and daughters-in-law, grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Grace Chapel, Angeles University Foundation.

A Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, September 20, 2001 at 10:00 a.m., Carmel of the Divine Infant Jesus of Prague and Saint Joseph (Carmelite Monastery), Sto. Rosario Street to be followed by interment at the Holy Mary Memorial Park, Angeles City.

* *In lieu of flowers, donations may be made directly to charitable institutions.*

The Board of Trustees,
Administration and Staff of

Angeles University Foundation
and AUF Medical Center

request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of the soul of

JOSE ANTONIO YAP ANGELES

Past Executive Vice President and University Trustee
Past Vice President and Trustee, AUF Medical Center

who joined his Creator on September 16, 2001

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Grace Chapel, Angeles University Foundation.

Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, September 20, 2001 at 10:00 a.m., Carmel of the Divine Infant Jesus of Prague and Saint Joseph (Carmelite Monastery), Sto. Rosario Street, to be followed by interment at the Holy Mary Memorial Park, Angeles City.

* *In lieu of flowers, donations may be made directly to charitable institutions.*

EMMANUEL "BUTCH" Q. UY

Born December 6, 1961
Returned to God on September 14, 2001.

His bereaved sisters ANGIE UY-BLANCO, CAROLYN UY-RONQUILLO, DIANA JEAN UY-ALCANTARA, SUZAN UY-NERY; brother JB UY; nephews RICHIE & NOAH; nieces ANGELICA, JHOLINA, BIANCA & TWEETY; brothers-in-law HENRY, REGIE, CLARO & ABET; sister-in-law CHIE-CHIE; relatives and his many, many friends request the pious readers to join in prayer for Butch's eternal rest.

We will be gathered in prayer around Butch's remains at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 22, 2001 at Himlayang Pilipino after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

Manuel (Baby) Gonzalez y del Prado

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 16, 2001
at the age of 76.

Mother **Lourdes del Prado Gonzalez**; loving wife **Ana Maria (Nene)**; children **Butch & Yoyi**, **Girlie**, **Joy & Martin Infante**, **John & Sally**, **Jean & David Dominguez**, **Joseph & Aida**, **James & Amor**, **Manolet & Grace**, **Dick** and **Cora Moore**, **Olive Perez**; brothers and sisters, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at their residence at #6 Saint Anthony Street, JPA Subdivision, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City.

Funeral Mass shall be on September 22, at 8:30 AM, at their residence, followed by interment services at 10:00 AM at Everest Hills Memorial Park, Muntinlupa City.

LUCIANA CRUZ (VDA) DE CAYANAN

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on September 6, 2001 at the age of 84
in Glendale, California, USA, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on June 1, 1917 in Becuran, Sta. Rita, Pampanga, Philippines. She was married to the late Pedro Sigua Cayanan Sr. of Dila-Dila, Sta. Rita, Pampanga.

Her bereaved children, daughters and sons-in-law **Vincent & Sol**, **Ma. Guia**, **Joey & Lita**, **Buenaventura & Humildad**, **Emerita & Jacinto**, **Ines & Basilio**, **Johnnie & Naty**, **Remedios**, **Peter & Agnes**, **Marilou & Edwin**, **Loreto & Rhose**; her 31 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren; her brother **Camilo A. Cruz**; sisters-in-law **Felicidad D. Cruz & Francisca C. Cruz**; nephews, nieces, friends and whole family circle, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Cayanan family residence in Becuran, Sta. Rita, Pampanga.

Interment at Dila-Dila Memorial Park, Sta. Rita, Pampanga will follow immediately after a Concelebrated Mass at the Dila-Dila Catholic Parish Church on Friday, September 21, 2001 at 9:00 AM.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
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#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
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219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
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Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
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13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
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East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
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Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
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Ramon C. Cortes, Jr. M.D.

Colonel MC (GCS) PC (Ret.)
F.A.M.A.P. F.P.A.M.S.
Diplomate, Philippine Board of Aviation Medicine
Diplomate, Philippine Board of Military Medicine

Peacefully joined our Creator
on September 17, 2001
at the age of 77.

His loving wife **Rosario**; and children **Chito & Becky, Cely & Bob, Tony & Connie & Jess, Ruby, Marites**, and **Bobby & Menchie**; grandchildren **Karen & Brian, Desiree & Ingrid, Philip James & Ashley Grace**; siblings **Nenita, Elisa, Augusto** (†), **Amanda, Manuel** (†) & **Liberato**; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at Brgy. Hills Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City, Rizal and will be transferred on Monday, September 24, 2001, at 9:00 a.m. to St. Ignatius Chapel, Camp Aguinaldo.

Interment will be at 12 o'clock noon at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani on Tuesday, September 25, 2001.

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

condoles with the family, relatives
and friends of the late

JOHNNY LAO CHIONG HIONG

of Lavezares, Manila
who passed away on September 14, 2001.

MARIA TERESA ESPINO BLANKENHORN

June 8, 1951 — September 13, 2001

Our "Bobbi" peacefully passed into the loving arms of
The Lord on September 13, 2001 in Menlo Park, California.

Her husband **Ron**; daughter **Rhoni**; parents **Gen.** and **Mrs. Romeo C. Espino**; brothers and sisters **Leslie** and **Diana, Ralph** and **Cristina, Ricky** and **Maribelle, Helene** and **Tito**; nieces **Adelaide, Nikki, Monica** and husband **Michael**; nephews **Richard, Paolo** and **Julian**; cousins, relatives and friends deeply mourn her passing and request the pious readers to join them in prayers for her eternal rest.

Funeral services were held on September 17, 2001 at the Church of St. Denis in Menlo Park, California.

A Novena Mass will be celebrated daily at 12:15 p.m. (Sunday at 12:00 noon) from September 17 to 24 at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on September 25 at 10:00 a.m. to be followed by a get-together of family and friends at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center.

The **Phanachet-Mañalac** Family
sadly announces the passing of

Chair Professor Umphon Phanachet

on Thursday, September 13, 2001
in Bangkok, Thailand.

Please remember him in your prayers.

Wife **Wattanee**,
daughters **Sukhumarn (Pinky)**,
Piyaporn (Anne), **Ek-Anong (Aey)**,
and son-in-law **Carlos Mañalac**.

"Jesus, We Trust In You"

ATTY. JOSE MANDANAS ILAGAN

of Taal, Batangas and Davao City

peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 77
after sentimental leave-takings with family
members attended by appropriate goodnights
and goodbyes on September 16, 2001.

His bereaved wife **Ma. Celina "Inday" Javellana**; children **Joji** and **George Hao-Bian, Edgar** and **Juliet, Brian** and **Mercy Fidelis, Marie Angelie** and **Jojo Jaen** and **Bella** and **Dennis Salazar**; sister and grandchildren request the pious readers to say a prayer for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at the Presidential Suite, Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, J. Camus Street, Davao City.

Interment will be on September 20, 2001 at the Davao Memorial Park following the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the San Pablo Parish Church at Juna Subdivision, Matina, Davao City.

The family will appreciate donations to the Divine Mercy Apostolate in lieu of flowers.

EMMA M. BERMEJO

(1919-2001)
Died: September 16, 2001 at the age of 82.

Her sister **Rebecca**, brother-in-law **Julio**; sisters-in-law **Milagros** and **Kathleen**; nephews **Dennis, Eric, Orville, Dave, Dan, Biboy**, and **Koko**; nieces **Mildred, Ching, Mariz, Rowena, Daisy, Cel** and **Marites**; grandchildren **Eric, Mae, Hazel, Hector, Jehan, Jeremiah, Ylva, Leslie, Princes, Camille, Carl, Charlotte, Genevieve, Giselle, Grace, Grego, Kay, Dondi, Francis, Michelle, Madeline, Maika, Charisse, Ron-K**, and **Mikee**; great grandchildren **Timmy, Miggy, Anton** and **Bernice.**

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on September 21, 2001, Friday at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

MILA AQUINO vda. de ALBERT

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 17, 2001.

She is survived by her children, **Ma. Rita & Michael Rudden** and
Jaime (Tim) & Alicia Albert
Grandchildren: **Ma. Cristina Rudden, Dominic, Amanda & Joseph Albert**
Husband: **Carlos J. Albert** (†)
Brothers: **Tony** (†), **Billy** (†), **Ninoy** (†), **Butz & Paul**
Sisters: **Linda Ibañez, Maur Lichauco, Ditas Valdes, Lupita Kashiwahara & Tessie Oreta.**

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel,
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Thursday, September 20, 2001, 9:00 a.m.
at Loyola Memorial, Marikina

Please omit flowers.

"I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew -
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God."

God Has Called Him Home

Col. Rizalino "Zaling" C. Cabanban PAF (Ret.)

PAF Flying School Class 55A

peacefully joined our Creator on September 17, 2001 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **CHIT**; children **ROLLY** and **EDNA**, **IRENE** and **BRUCE**, **BUTCH** and **MAUREEN**, **NOELA**, **CHOLY**, **DINNO** and **SHEILA**; grandchildren **OGIE** (†), **VINCE**, **VALERIE**, **JOY** and **MOY**, **IVY**, **EM-EM**, **CARLO**, **TETET**, **MARLA**, **ANTON**, **ANA**, **YANA**, **YANYAN**, **MIKKO**, **SABU**, **SACHI**, **CHASE**; and great-grandchildren **ISSA**, **MIGUEL** and **JAMES**; relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains shall lie in state at the Holy Eucharist Parish, Moonwalk Village, Parañaque until 8:00 AM on Friday, 21 September 2001.

Memorial Services shall be held at the
Cathedral of St. Mary and St. John, Cathedral Heights,
E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City
at 10:00 AM on Friday, 21 September 2001.

Necrological Services will be at 7:00 PM on Saturday, 22 September 2001 at the Villamor Air Base Chapel, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

Interment will be at High Noon on Sunday, 23 September 2001 at the Libingan-Ng-Mga-Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati after the 10:00 AM Mass at the Villamor Air Base Chapel.

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

expresses its deepest sympathies
to the family, relatives and friends of

FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT
NEPTALI A. GONZALES

who passed away on
September 16, 2001.

Our Dearly Beloved

COL. JESUS VELASCO SAMSON

(Retired PAF)

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 14, 2001 at the age of 84.

His bereaved wife **Meding** (†); his children **Marion & Aldo**, **Mercy** (†) & **Jun** (†), **Boboy & Susan**, **Senen & Cyrile**, **Mildred & Keith** and **Steve & Bambi**; grandchildren **Shyla**, **Sarah**, **Eumir**, **Michelle**, **Simon**, **Michael** and **Martin** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City. Funeral Mass will be on Thursday, September 20, 2001 at 8:30 AM.

Cremation will be at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City, on Thursday, September 20, 2001 at 11:00 AM.

Prof. CRISTY R. HERNANDEZ

of the University of the Philippines, the De la Salle University and the University of Batangas

Died in the grace of our Lord on September 13, 2001
at the age of 78.

His wife **Ofelia**; children **Chito** and **Tonet**, **Ana**, **Noni** and **Che**, and **Marlene**; grandchildren **Iciay** and **Javi**; relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City and will be transferred to Batangas City on Friday, September 21, 2001.

Cremation is scheduled at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on Saturday, September 22, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the U.P. Parish of the Holy Sacrifice.

Senator Teodoro 'Doring' de Vera y Perez

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want..." **Psalm 23:1**

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 17, 2001
at the age of 96.

His loving wife **Carmen** (†); children: **Chito & Nancy**, **Edgar & Bunny**, **Mari**, **Vinchy & Sandra**, **Mel** (†), **Belette & Mats**; grandchildren: **Dominic & Irma**, **Michael**, **Jerry & Marlette**, **Paolo & Lorraine**, **Luis & Tracy**, **Marlo**, **Pia**, **Julian**, **Vinchito**, **Marco**, **Carmela**, **Marco**, **Bianca**; great grandchildren: **Dexter**, **Dino**, **Tanya**, **Enzo**, **Diego**, **Tricia**, **Tamila & Patrice**... thank the Lord for blessing him with a long and happy life and the grace of receiving the sacraments before his demise.

His remains lie in state at St. Jerome Emiliani Parish Church at Alabang.

Cremation will be on Friday, September 21, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park Crematorium in Parañaque after the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Jerome.

Our dearly beloved mommy

IMPRESSION VERZO CLEMENTE

Peacefully joined our Lord on her birthday,
September 17, 2001 at the age of 93.

Her loving children **Mariano** and **Perla Verzo**, **Virgilio** and **Ditas Verzo**, **Conrado** (†) and **Eugene Verzo**, and **Victor** and **Marites Clemente**; her grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until September 19, 2001 and will be transferred to Sual, Pangasinan on September 20, 2001.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 22, 2001 after the 8:00 AM Mass.

Ret. Rev. Monsignor Pedro D. Baldovino

October 23, 1931 - September 16, 2001

Former Vicar General, Diocese of Lucena

His bereaved family, brother **Reynaldo**; sisters **Ludy** and **Flory**; sisters-in-law **Presing**, **Naty** and **Cresencia**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the San Luis Obispo Parish, Lucban, Quezon.

Interment will be on September 21, 2001, Friday, at the San Luis Memorial Park, Lucban, Quezon, after the 9:00 AM Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Why change careers?

By Josie O. Santamaria

(This is part II of the article "Career change is cure for work malaise.")

A CAREER change could involve any of the following:

1. You can change your occupation without changing the field. For example, an accountant (who has an investigative career) in a pharmaceutical company can shift to a career in sales and marketing (which is an enterprising career) in the same organization.

2. You can change field but not your occupation For example, a psychology instructor (who has a social career) switches to human resource development and training (which is a combination of social and enterprising careers) in a business organization.

3. You can change both occupation and field. For example, moving from medical practice (which is a social career) to a marketing director position (which is an enterprising career) of a pharmaceutical company.

Reasons

The reasons for changing one's career can be involuntary or voluntary. The involuntary reasons are usually the following:

- You got fired and can't find the same kind of work in another company. The reasons you got fired could be because you are a victim of restructuring or reengineering or the economy. You could have lost your job because you were found to be dispensable. The reason for the latter could be negative work attitudes, behaviors and habits. (Refer to my article on "What to do if you lose your job" which was published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, People at Work section on June 21 and 28, 2000.)
- You like your job but your boss had been fired or moved to a staff position and you are now made to work for a boss you don't like.

Voluntary

The voluntary reasons for wanting a career change could be:

- You don't anymore like your work; you are bored with it.
- You are looking for a job in line with your mission in life. You've been engaged in a life long search for and a journey towards the meaning of your life. Unfortunately, for some, this search never ends because you are not willing to spend personal time to reflect on and define your mission in life.
- You are not earning enough and you want a new job and career to be able to earn more—more of what you think you are worth.
- You have been asked to do the work of three people and you feel stressed out, irritable and angry, exhausted and burned out. You want a job, a career, that is a little easier on you so you'll have time to go out "to smell the flowers."
- You are hardly stretched at all by your previous and present work and you'd like something that offers a real challenge and really "stretches" you.
- You want to finally have the right career after working at a job, which you know had been a bad choice or not the right choice from the start. You had thought it would just be an entry job but got stuck in it.
- You've reached midlife and are ready for the famous "midlife career change."

Myth

There is a myth that career change is a midlife phenomenon and that it is triggered by the so-called midlife crisis. The point is people feel a need for, and should in fact change their careers at different stages in their lives rather than stay stuck or glued to one that would frustrate them later on.

At different stages in life—adolescence, early adulthood, middle age and late adulthood, our interests change. As you learn skills required by your job and which are different from your educational background, work experiences and training, or are exposed to the work of your peers, you also experience a shift in interests or preferences. As you evolve from being single to being married and from having young children to bringing up adolescents, and later be at a time in life when you have "empty nests," your needs and values change.

You should then expect to experience a need to change careers at different times in your life. Job hunting is a process that must be learned and mastered, processed, improved and used again and again. You need to pause from our work, perhaps every year, to assess yourself: What am I doing to which I am devoting at least eight hours a day? Do I like what I am doing? Would I like to do the same thing the next two to three years? You should not wait until you are in your late 40s or 50s to make a serious self-assessment because by then you would have limited options.

In a very dynamic, highly competitive and global environment, you can never be sure of keeping your job or of being able to pursue a preferred career interest in your organization. You must always be prepared to move into the same career in a different field or into a different career in the same field or another.

(The author is president of Career Systems, Inc., a consultancy and training firm specializing in career development services and programs for organizations and individuals. She can be contacted at her e-mail address carsys@ qinet.net.*)*

ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Out-of-work professional asks, 'Can I still find a job?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

ADVICE
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I HAVE been out of a job since early this year when the bank I worked for was bought by another bank. Unfortunately, I was not absorbed by the acquiring bank. This is really a problem for me because I am in my early 40s and I have difficulty looking for a job. I have already sent several resumes to various companies and I browse web job sites every morning but to no avail.

I used to work with a bank, resigned and then moved to another company. Then, I went back to working in another bank. Now I have realized I have made the wrong moves and decisions in my career. I should have stayed with the original stable bank.

I am wondering why I became complacent then and prioritized my family first. Perhaps, I became impatient since it was taking long for me to become an officer. So, I moved to another company where I was given an officer position without really considering a premium in pay.

Do you think I can still find a job at my age and make up for what I've missed? If I shift careers, what could be in store for me? I really have to work because my family needs my support.

Derailed Career Person

Thank you for your letter. Yes, there is a lot of work life left for people at your age. In fact, when I founded my consultancy and training company I was 40 years of age. After leaving the comfort zone of big and stable companies, I found new freedom and peace of mind. I was able to pursue what I truly wanted—a balance of work, family life and the pursuit of my mission of helping the poor through the Economy of Sharing of the Focolare Movement.

Forget the past

To resolve your dilemma, begin by letting go of your worry and anxiety. The past is gone; it will never come back. Let go of all regrets and move on. You may have some nostalgia for what could have been in terms of your career. But what we often think of as mistakes or errors may in fact be golden moments and highlights of your life. For example, I can't see how prioritizing the family over a job can be wrong. In my view, you made the right choice. What is more valuable than having time to care and nurture your children to become integrated persons? While immersed in the current situation, you may have difficulty appreciating the wisdom of your past decisions. But I believe that there is God's design of love for each one of us. We will get to appreciate this fact later when we look back at our lives and see the golden thread that connects all our decisions and actions.

It is important to have a vision of the future, of what you truly desire. In one of my recent columns, I discussed about thinking through your dream job. Try to visualize clearly what you want considering your skills and competencies, your income requirements, etc. Then, act. Try to live the present moment well. Make a to-do list everyday and try to live every moment with concentration, perfection and precision. Don't think about yesterday and don't be overly concerned about tomorrow. This way your mind can relax and be more creative to think through what you can do.

Meaningful work

Can you still find a job and make up for what you have missed in terms of career? The answer to this is yes. You can find meaningful and fruitful work. But it may not be in the same context as you experienced before.

William Bridges talked about the "de-jobbing" that is happening all around us. The banking industry is an example. Also, with the prevalence of mergers and acquisitions, there are less and less jobs available. With globalization, a lot of factories have closed to move to countries where labor is cheaper. Furthermore, companies today discriminate in favor of the young, computer literate and better educated. It may not pay to compete for traditional jobs with them.

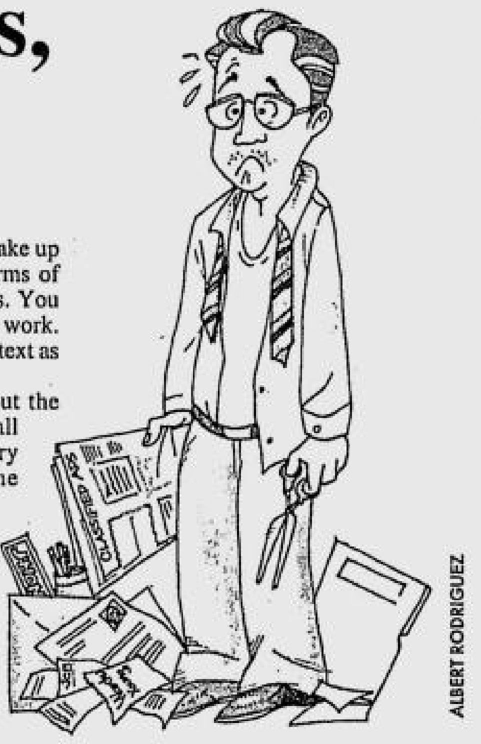
On the other hand, you have plenty of choices outside your traditional job. You can either use your skills in a new occupation or in a new field. You may want to do part-time or work you can do at home. You may want to pursue further studies to add to your set of skills. Or you may want to be entrepreneurial and set up you own small business. If you are an accountant, you can do bookkeeping or offer audit and tax services to small and medium businesses. Or if you are inclined to teach, you can approach a college or university near your home. With your experience in the financial services industry, you have wisdom to impart to your future students. Use your imagination. I agree with the saying that "Necessity is the mother of invention."

Search techniques

Today, it is no longer fashionable to plan one's career in a single company. Most of the young people I meet today plan their careers across companies and industries. Try doing the same thing. However, if you insist on a traditional job and your job seeking methods have not worked, then change tactics. Try to recall how you landed your first job. Most likely you inquired from friends, relatives and neighbors about companies who may or may not have vacancies along your line of work. This method is still the best way to find a job, better than the ads or search companies in the web. Don't just send your resume; ask for a face-to-face meeting. Then do your best during the interview.

Once you have zeroed in on your career option, convert your vision to reality. Make a list of people you know who you can call or visit. Make several copies of your resume highlighting your competencies. Then, accompany your efforts with prayer. Sooner than later you will find the work you desire. All the best. Take care of yourself.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax at 892-2902.)*



How do you deal with a N.E.R.D.?

WORKING WOUNDED
By Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I'm in sales and I recently sank a lot of time into a person who I thought had the authority to buy from me. Later, I learned he didn't. If I'd realized that sooner I could have saved myself a lot of time and energy. How do I avoid that mistake in the future?

Barking Up The Wrong Tree

In high school I had a friend named Bob for whom dating was not a game, it was his life's calling. I was once at his house when the phone rang. He was on for a long time, talking in hushed but animated tones. Finally he came back grinning. "Got a date for Saturday night," he announced. "Really?" I asked. "Who was that?" "A wrong number."

Bob is one of the few people I've met who can turn a wrong number into Ms Right. But the rest of us can learn from him that not all wrong numbers are dead ends. Even people who don't have purchasing authority can be fonts of information that lead to a sale. Of course, they can kill a sale, too, if they're not well handled. In a book called "Teleselling Techniques That Close the Sale" (Amacom, 1997), author Flyn Penoyer calls those people NERDS (Not Empowered to Render a Decision), and gives valuable tips on using them to your advantage. I've adapted the following from his book.

- Even if they can't buy, NERDS can influence. Flyn tells the story of a salesman who was rude to a receptionist. When he finally got the president of the company on the line and made his pitch, the president responded, "I never buy from people who are rude." What the salesman didn't know was that the receptionist he'd antagonized was the president's wife.
- NERDS can teach you a lot about the players and the process. Even if they can't sign a check, NERDS can often give you something almost as valuable: the information you need to make a sale. Ask them to point you toward the person who can buy and about the hoops you'll have to jump through to make the sale.
- Warning: NERDS can provide bad information, too. The rule in journalism is: don't publish 'til your info has been verified by another source. In sales it is: without verification, don't make the pitch. Your NERD may be on the inside—but that doesn't mean he's right.
- Get pointers from the NERD but make the pitch yourself. Use your NERD to get as much info as you can about who to talk to, how to frame your pitch, and how to get the meeting. But don't let the NERD try to make the sale. The last thing you want to hear from the decision-maker is, "I have your materials, I'll call if I'm interested."

Manage your relationship with people who can't make a decision and you'll never have to worry about revenge of the NERDS.

Our winning strategy for dealing with someone not empowered to render a decision comes from Jonathan S. in cyberspace. "My father taught me to say to a non-decision maker, 'Let's pretend that we're old friends; how do you think that so and so usually goes about . . . 'I have found that this line immediately puts you on their side and gives them a sense of power in sharing important information about the decision-maker."

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

'Go placidly amid the noise'

RECIPES *for* LEARNING
By Moje Ramos-Aquino

BETWEEN Sunday as I write this column and Wednesday when you get to read this column, there would have been many more events unfolding following the terrorist attacks on the USA. I can only offer endless prayers for the unknowing victims and their families and for the safety of the rest of the world. And I pray with hope in my heart that something good can still come out of all these.

Rediscovering God

Poignant scenarios are occupying my mind and time right now.

The first one is watching Americans sing God Bless America, Amazing Grace and Battle Hymn of the Republic with all solemnity. Suddenly, the USA is reaching out to God. Rediscovering God. For a long while, in the name of freedom of religion, you could not publicly and proudly profess your faith in the USA. You have to do it in the privacy of your home or your church.

The second scenario is the American handling of the tragedy. Immediately, firemen, policemen and even civilians were at the WTC helping in whatever way they could unmindful of their own safety. My heart goes out to those brave people who perished so that others may live.

Global peace

The third scenario occupying my thoughts is global peace. I've been watching CNN, Fox and BBC since Tuesday evening. It seems to me that Mr. Bush and company are conditioning the minds of the international community of an impending, inevitable war. I just got this quotation from an ICQ chat mate and I fear for the thousands of innocent, peace-loving people of the whole world. 'While the word is yet unspoken, you are master of it; when once it is spoken, it is master of you."

Finally, here are my thoughts on the predictions being circulated. God speaks to us through the Bible and tells us not to believe in predictions and false prophets. I received numerous text messages and e-mail connecting Nostradamus' predictions and current events. When we do this, it becomes some sort of a collective prayer and death wish. And you know, what the mind can conceive, the body can achieve. It would seem that we are praying for those alleged predictions to happen. And you know God, He usually gives us what we ask for.

Inspirational poem

Having said all these, what should we do now? Let us take inspiration from the poem, Desiderata:

'Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble, it's a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.'

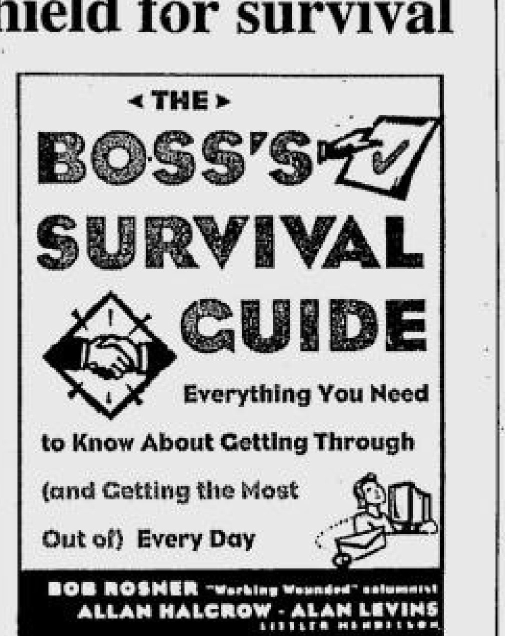
Let us continue praying and start thinking, feeling, doing and sharing peace now.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com.*)*

Guide for bosses offers shield for survival

By Regina Galang Reyes

FLASHPOINT


THE
BOSS'S
SURVIVAL
GUIDE
Everything You Need
to Know About Getting Through
(and Getting the Most
Out of) Every Day
BOB ROSNER "Working Wounded" columnist
ALLAN HALCROW · ALAN LEVINS

"A LONG, long time ago, in a faraway corporate land, there used to live a king who was known as 'boss.' He was revered and loved by all in his kingdom, from the knights in his castle to the peasants who tilled his land. His words were nuggets of wisdom and his rulings fair. He ruled with a firm hand of justice and a warm heart of mercy."

In the corporate world of today, this is one fairy tale no longer told. The favorite story nowadays goes like this:

"A short time ago, in nearby corporate land, there lives an ogre named 'boss.' He is feared by all in his company, from his senior managers to the janitors. His words are questioned and his decisions are not followed. He manages with an uneven hand of favoritism and the cold heart of bias."

Truly, the world has turned around 360 degrees for management. How can a boss survive and even succeed in an environment where the tag "boss" has become a pejorative four-letter word?

Land mines

Bob Rosner, creator of "Working Wounded," an internationally syndicated column and web site and Inquirer columnist, offers a solution: he has just released his latest book, "The Boss's Survival Guide" for bewildered bosses who must now tread a corporate landscape filled with potential land mines of people problems.

He starts off by pointing out that the world of work has indeed changed from a generation of "gold watch workers" to a generation of "Swatch workers." With this perspective, he offers general principles on how to manage the new generation. His 12 steps to better bossing will undoubtedly soon become a mantra for bosses (he has been on a speaking tour in the US on this topic).

Every major topic in his book is easy to navigate. It is divided into parts such as "Know the Issue," "Real Life Examples," "Take Action," and "Stay Out of Jail." Not one to be stingy with his resources, Rosner places in each chapter a list of books and web sites where the reader can get more information on the subject matter. It also has digests of current management concepts and practices such as emotional intelligence, values testing and leadership styles.

Heaven sent

This book is heaven sent for HR managers who have long been telling managers that actually the work of 'human resource management' is really the work and responsibility of all managers. Rosner guides managers in people management from mastering their staff's job descriptions, hiring, managing performance, disciplining and firing. He also has a thing or two (actually more) to say about the most important managerial skill of all: effective communication.

While this book is written for the American manager who has to manage within a complexity of U.S. laws that protect employees' rights from hiring to firing, it is still relevant in the Philippine setting. While Philippine laws may not be as sophisticated as U.S. laws (which even prohibits discriminatory questions during employment interviews), Rosner's guide may still be worthwhile following considering that these laws are for the protection and betterment of workers.

Hopefully, upon reading this book, bosses may improve their management thinking and styles and truly become beloved "kings" of their corporate kingdoms. After all, in these tough times of managing a diverse workforce, is there a boss who can honestly say he doesn't need to improve? If some bosses don't find Rosner's book useful (even a tiny bit), they can still use the book as a shield, literally and figuratively, to protect themselves from the slings and arrows of an irate work force.

(This book is available at National Book Store. You can send feedback to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ **REGINA GALANG REYES**, Subsection Editor

24-HOUR COMMERCE

Are you addicted to the Internet?

By Jeff Westover

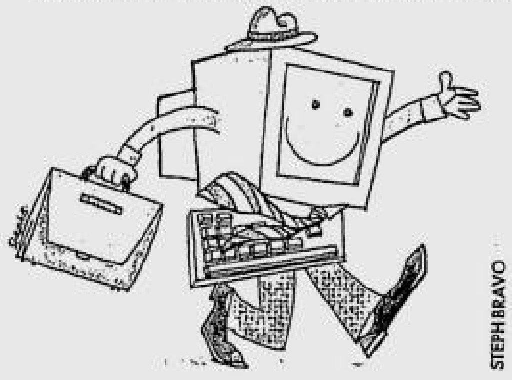
(This is part IV of the article, "What the Internet means to anyone who wants to stay employed.")

TRADING online securities was called the big Internet addiction of 1999. Trading online more than doubled from 1997 to 1998 and currently more than six million people trade online, according to NFO Worldwide. Like most "addictions" associated with the Internet, what made the appeal so great was accessibility 24 hours a day.

As the Internet shrinks the world and business expands, look to conventional hours to be a thing of the past amongst many doing business online.

Much of this will be fueled by the powerful prospects of increased business coming from new markets. While the North American markets will still see the largest growth, there are substantial gains being made in Europe, the Pacific Rim, all of Asia and Latin America.

Employers are going to have to staff around the clock and prepare workers for multi-lingual communication if they are going to win a piece of that business. All of these dynamics—and more—will combine to make work as we know it completely different. It will require nimble adaptability, constant learning of new skills and ever-improving methods of communicating and connecting with each other online.


STEPH BRAVO

Internet myths

As the computer gained in popularity, typewriters began to gather dust. Some people called it the end of typing and paperwork. The reality of the last 20 years has not only proven this to be entirely false but that if anything, more people type and more paperwork is generated than ever before.

Likewise, assumptions are being made about the Internet and how we all work. But the following things will not change—and may in fact be more important than ever:

- The need for speed

The instant-gratification of the interactive environment of the Internet fuels the need for speed in conducting business online. Competitive realities require it, too. Companies have to act fast to beat others to market and to continually streamline operations to maintain profitability. This singular element is the cause for dire predictions of massive corporate failures within the next few years. Companies that cannot effectively react, will simply go away.

- Performance management

Results, results, results. Companies and employees—or contractors that work for them—will increasingly be held to delivery promises. For the same reasons as listed above. With some predicting as much as 50 percent of employees being contract-based workers, the most fierce competition may be between individuals struggling to satisfy customers/employers.

- Learning, training and education

Never was there a time where learning is so much at the forefront. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, occupations requiring an associate degree or more education will account for 40 percent of total job growth from 1998 to 2008.

Employers will seek workers that demonstrate the vital skill of learning. Technologies will continue to develop that change operations and the ways that business is done. Workers will be required to constantly train in these changing technologies and adapt "on the fly."

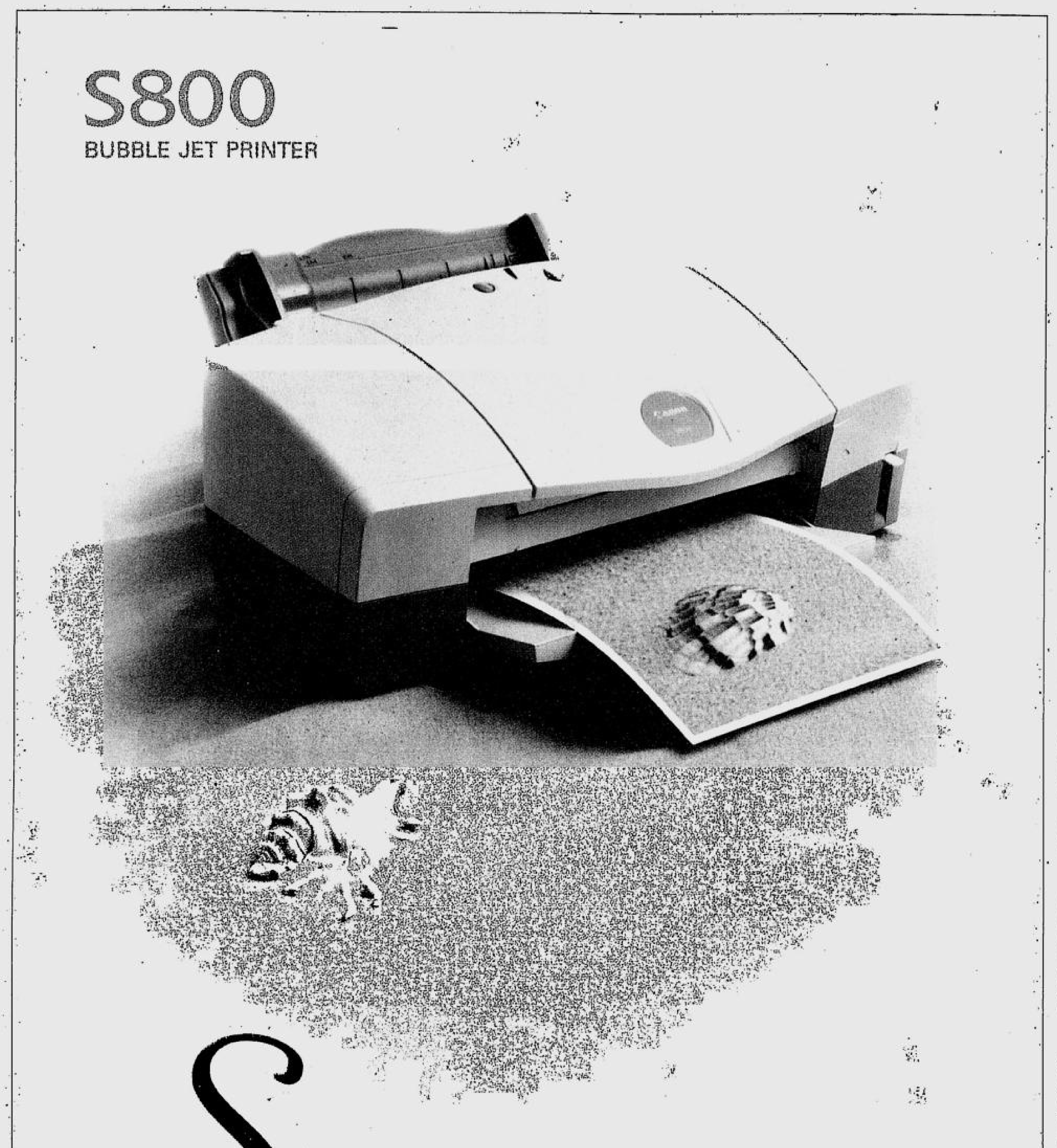
Harry Truman once said: "it is what you learn after you know it all that counts." Never was that more true than when considering future life, work and employment on the Internet.

- Human interaction

Don't be fooled by telecommuting trends and mobile Internet appliances that will keep workers connected to the workplace. They are no replacement to "face time" and the ability to accomplish things on a personal level. Just as the computer has not stopped people from typing, neither will it stop them from meeting and talking.

- Soft skills more important than ever

Lost in the rhetoric of technology jobs taking over is the need for "soft skills." These are the skills of self-management that improve human interaction. Qualities like honesty, trust, confidence, empathy, adaptability and self-control are not easily measured but are vitally important—especially in an environment like the Internet where misunderstanding can be so easily generated. These skills will be highly valued. Employers even now are trying new ways of evaluating job applicants through behavioral-based interview techniques.



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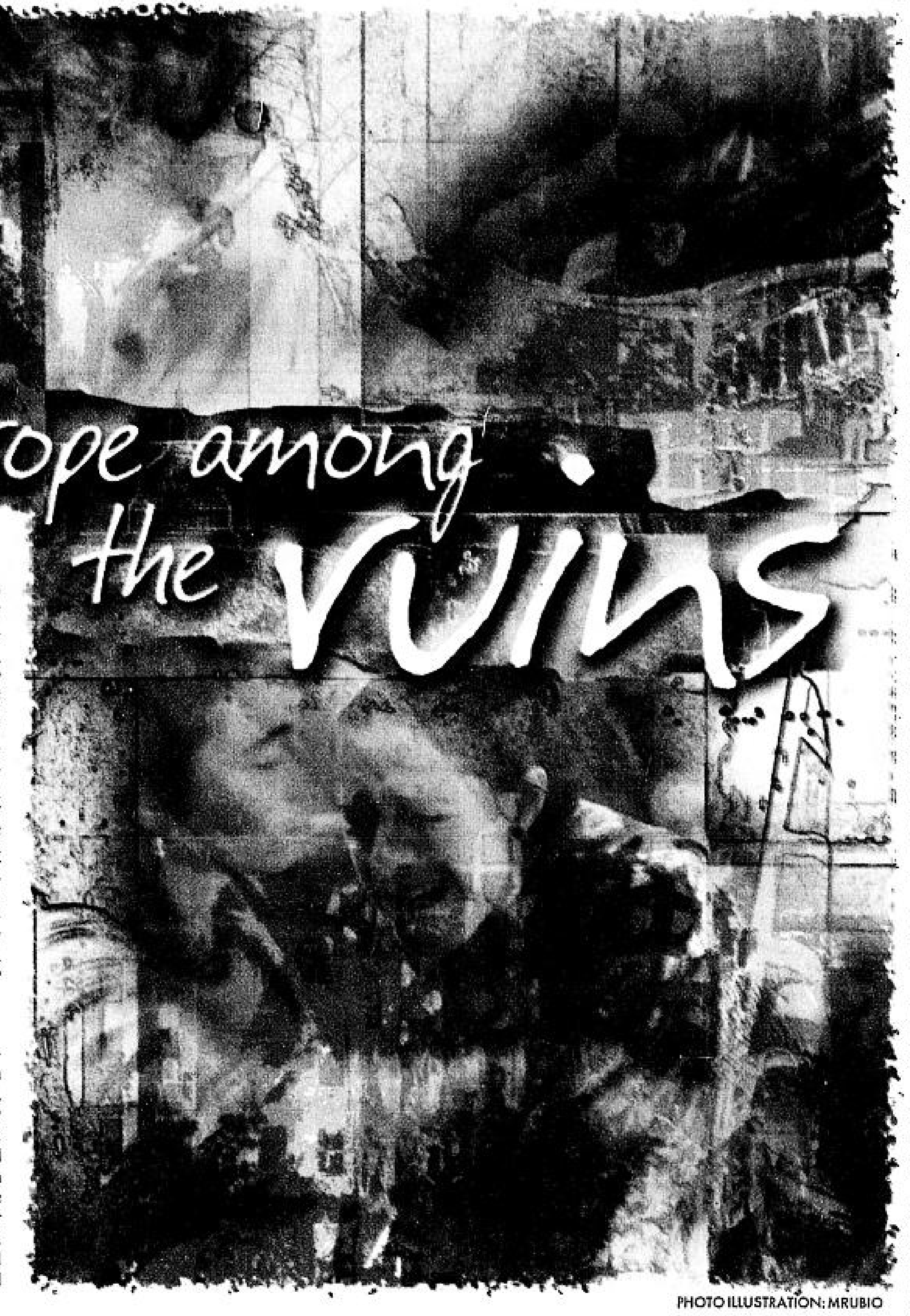

Hope among the ruins

The tragedy that has struck the US is the beginning of a new journey for the 17-year-old author. The road may be long and harsh, she believes, but if a nation stands together, it will never fall

By Casey Wunderley

THIS began only as a class paper, but as I began to compose my thoughts on capital punishment, my heart cried. How could I think of anything other than the tragic events that have devastated our country? I'm merely a 17-year-old high-school student. I'm an average girl who's hurrying to grow up. My whole future lies ahead of me. I do not know where my life will take me, or where I will stand. But one thing I do know is that I will forever stand with my God and my America. Please lend me your time, and hold my hand, as I take you on a journey through my heart, for it has been pounding to tell anyone how it feels.

My America

There are so many ways we can express brotherhood, love, faith and freedom. My America has shown me these ways. Americans have proven their success, wealth and prosperity these past few days. But they did not show their success through financial status. They did not show their wealth through money and economics. They did not show their prosperity through possessions or belongings. They have shown these things through their dedication and concern for their friends, their family, their neighbors and their country.

Our nation has proven its brotherhood by giving all it can give. We have pulled away from our individual lives, and have extended our hands to bring our nation back to its feet. We have volunteered our time to help those who need us the most. Our love has been given through our thoughts and our prayers. We have reached out to one another to aid in our suffering. We have comforted our fellow Americans in their time of need.

Faith brings us out of our misery. We hold our heads high because we know justice will be served. We believe in the foundation of the American nation. We know in our hearts that God is on our side. That He values his believers. He will bring us our undeniable eternity for He knows our country was constructed, has developed and will always remain under Him.

My America stands tall. She is a wonderful nation built on popular sovereignty. She has morals and values. She gives unselfishly to her people, yet prospers over other greedy nations. She believes in equal freedoms for every man. She has no interest in power for herself, but instead provides for her people. She does not say "no" to any nation that needs assistance. She does not deny people their God-given rights, but instead pushes herself to satisfy them in any way possible. She does no harm to us. She brings us no pain. She assures us that we are safe. She fights for us. She loves us.

My America feels pain. She feels anger. She feels remorse. But all we can do for her is believe that she will bring us back to where we stood. We shall see our rainbow. We must stand firm. We will get through this. As a powerful nation, we have climbed many steps higher on the ladder than any other nation. This tragedy has only brought us down one step. But we have already begun to step back up to where we were.

Opposing nations resent Americans because every one of us has something they want. Freedom. They are angered by our happiness. They are jealous of our solidarity. They desire our leadership. If only we could teach these nations how simple it is to become a nation like the United States of America. We would tell them that greed, anger and control did not make us what we are. We'd teach them that love, unselfishness, faith and religion are what build a strong nation.

We have been struck by a cowardly enemy. Innocent people have lost their lives to a terrorist attack. America mourns for her people. She misses her security. But she has proven that she cannot be destroyed.

To all those that rejoice in our loss, we can only feel sorrow for God will bring us justice. To those who stand by us, we give thanks, for it takes a great effort to get involved, but the support will forever be appreciated.

There is no greater blessing than to be an American. Keep your heads high, America, for we shall prosper. Rise, America. Rise, and join hands, as we start this new journey. The road will be long and harsh; but if we stand together, we will never fall.

I am from North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. I am a senior at Norwin High School. I have eight brothers and sisters. I live with my mother and father, who have always been very supportive of me. I have always liked to write and lately I have been thinking about pursuing a writing career. When I heard about the attack on America, I felt I had to let people know how I felt about it.

And this is it.

Casey Wunderley lost two friends in last Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MRUBIO

Youth cries out, 'No to terrorism!'

Young Filipinos express their rage and indignation at Terrorist Tuesday

THAT Tuesday night, we were all doing our thing. Some of us were at home with our families, others were on their way home from work, a handful was still in school. Soon, the news came flooding in. Watch CNN, there has been a plane crash! Another accident? But accident it wasn't. It was a terrorist attack—several attacks, to be exact.

We watched with horror, some of us with tears rolling down our cheeks, as we saw humanity at its lowest form. We still cannot fathom that human beings could do such a terrible injustice to other human beings.

Peace was stolen—and the thief did not come at night. It attacked in broad daylight for all the world to see. Every feeling person's heart was crushed, people were devastated, our normal lives have been shattered to pieces. And to think we are hundreds of thousands of miles from the US.

We cannot even imagine the pain of those who were actually there. Of the victims who lost their lives, who lost their freedom. Of their families who would never get to see them again. Multiply the pain we have by a hundredfold and this would still not compare with the pain of the victims and their loved ones.

The world has united—in mourning and in the desire to bring back freedom, to bring back security, to bring back peace.

Here, 2bU! opens its pages for the young people of our country to make their voices heard on the bloodiest chapter of human history yet in the new century.

The terrorists want to show the world that even a super power is vulnerable to their attack. No one is safe anymore.—**Auster Perez, entrepreneur**

I was terrified when I saw what happened. I have so many friends there and I was worried. We can't do anything about it but pray for them and for our own safety. I just hate those people who are connecting the attacks to Nostradamus predictions. They are only scaring the people even more.—**Drew Europeo, Web designer**

The incident in the US just shows how vulnerable anyone can be, no matter how powerful one is. It shows how life can easily be snatched from us and it usually happens when we are least ready.—**Ronald Pasion, designer**

I felt sad upon learning about the US bombing and I felt sorry for the victims and their relatives. May justice prevail in this event. Power does not always guarantee safety.—**Gelo, Central Seminary, University of Santo Tomas**

I think it's a scary thought that we would actually experience war within our lifetime. These terrorists have no respect for life. To attack civilians is an act of cowardice. We don't know when or where these terrorists may strike. Everybody around the world is a possible victim. The WTC attack is not just an attack on the United States but an attack on the free world. That includes everybody, even Filipinos everywhere around the globe. Nobody is safe.—**Jay Padua, Web designer**

YOUTH/p.C2

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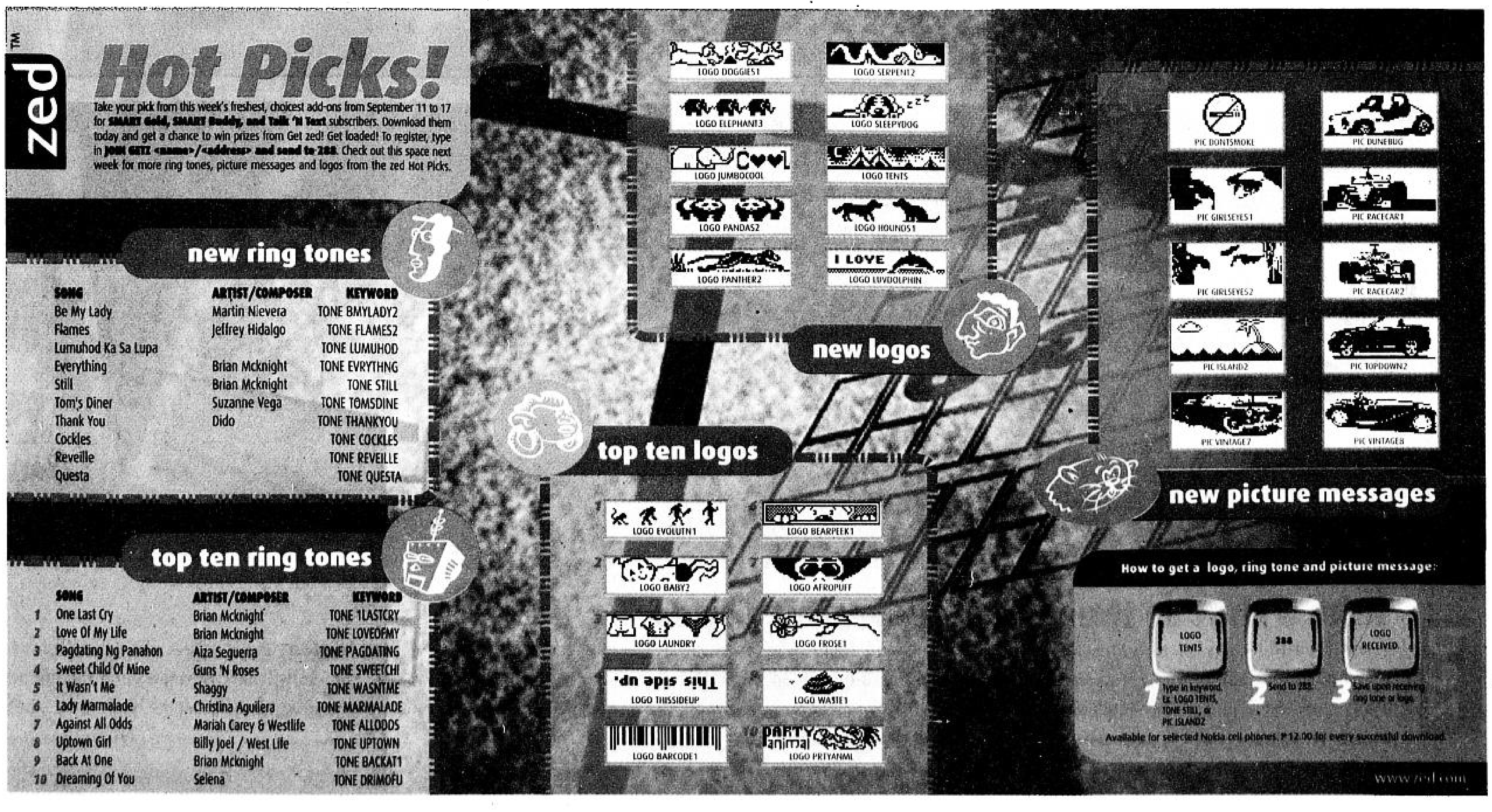

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Hot Picks!

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new ring tones

SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
Be My Lady	Martin Nievera	TONE BMYLADY2
Flames	Jeffrey Hidalgo	TONE FLAMES2
Lumuhod Ka Sa Lupa		TONE LUMUHOD
Everything	Brian Mcknight	TONE EVRYTHNG
Still	Brian Mcknight	TONE STILL
Tom's Diner	Suzanne Vega	TONE TOMSDINE
Thank You	Dido	TONE THANKYOU
Cockles		TONE COCKLES
Reveille		TONE REVEILLE
Questa		TONE QUESTA

top ten ring tones

	SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1	One Last Cry	Brian Mcknight	TONE 1LASTCRY
2	Love Of My Life	Brian Mcknight	TONE LOVEOFMY
3	Pagdating Ng Panahon	Aiza Seguerra	TONE PAGDATING
4	Sweet Child Of Mine	Guns 'N Roses	TONE SWEETCHI
5	It Wasn't Me	Shaggy	TONE WASNTME
6	Lady Marmalade	Christina Aguilera	TONE MARMALADE
7	Against All Odds	Mariah Carey & Westlife	TONE ALLODDS
8	Uptown Girl	Billy Joel / West Life	TONE UPTOWN
9	Back At One	Brian Mcknight	TONE BACKAT1
10	Dreaming Of You	Selena	TONE DRIMOFU

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LOGO ELEPHANT3
LOGO SLEEPYDOG
LOGO JUMBOCOOL
LOGO TENTS
LOGO PANDAS2
LOGO HOUNDS1
LOGO PANTHER2
LOGO LUVDOLPHIN

top ten logos

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2 LOGO BABY2
3 LOGO LAUNDRY
4 LOGO THISSIDEUP
5 LOGO BARCODE1
6 LOGO BEARPEEK1
7 LOGO AFROPUFF
8 LOGO FROSE1
9 LOGO WASTE1
10 LOGO PRTYANML

new picture messages

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PIC DUNEBUG
PIC GIRLSEYES1
PIC RACECAR1
PIC GIRLSEYES2
PIC RACECAR2
PIC ISLAND2
PIC TOPDOWN2
PIC VINTAGE7
PIC VINTAGE8

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Youth cries out, 'No to terrorism!'

(From page C1)

It's quite devastating. You see everything in the pictures, you hear everything on the news. I just hope the bastards who did this will get what they deserve. I feel for the people who died and those who lost their loved ones.—**Patrick Pastor, student, UST**

I deplore the heartless act done by these terrorists. But I don't believe that declaring war would give justice to the victims. It would just claim more lives.—**Allen, student**

I was so devastated. I wasn't even there and I felt as though the world had stopped cold right then. Every day before school I watch CNN and the moment I get home, I do the same. I have family and friends there and I worry about them. It was horrifying but right now I was just thinking, when the US attacked, the world stopped to mourn. But who even remembers the hundreds of people who are tortured and killed in North Korea every day? Just a thought, though. I'm still shaken and the future scares me.—**Cheryl Tiu, student, Ateneo, 2bU! correspondent**

I'm really scared. Our government is not good enough to face the evils of society.—**Jojo, bartender**

The terrorists who attacked the US should pay for what they did. But I don't believe war is the solution because even more helpless souls will be involved in unnecessary violence.—**Leidy, student, UST**

It's life imitating art... at its tragic finest! The ruthless terrorists could have taken inspiration from Hollywood. How ironic!—**Edwin Valdez Vinarao, 2bU! correspondent**

It's sad to know there are people out there who are deliberately trying to kill others, even risking their own lives just to kill thousands more. The experience made me realize that life is very valuable and can be taken away from you very easily, so we all have to value every moment and not take our lives for granted.—**Mike Dy, systems support engineer**

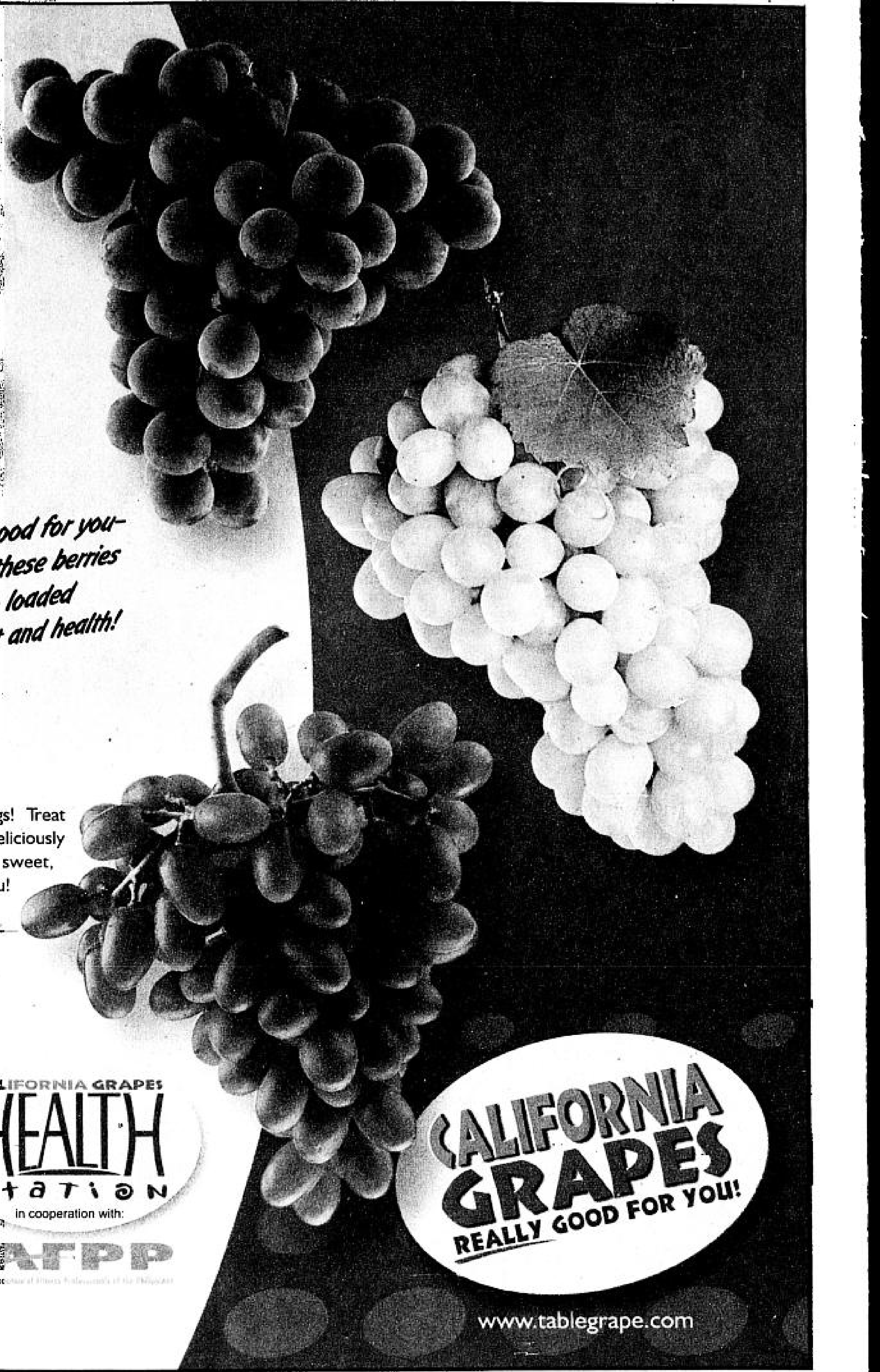
What the terrorists did to the US was an act of war. The Abu Sayyaf did the same to our fellow Filipinos in Mindanao when they took the lives of many innocent people. These terrorists should be treated as pests. Their increase in number is really a threat to mankind.—**Erin**

The USA is one of the most powerful countries in the world. Perhaps it is the most influential in the world. I think it takes more than a terrorist attack to make them fall on their knees. I just wish that the US will be very careful with their actions. The bottom line is for all the nations to unite and stop these worthless terrorism and instead promote peace.—**Ben**

It was about 9:20 p.m. I was watching TV with the maids at home when I got a text message from my aunt that two hijacked airplanes crashed into the World Trade Center. At first I was thrilled since I wanted to see real live stuff that usually happens only in the movies. But since switching to BBC last Tuesday up to this minute, I have felt angry, afraid, but most of all sad. I feel angry because—pardon me for being selfish and insensitive—I had never been to the World Trade Center and I had always dreamed of going to the top floor (I guess now I have to make do with the Petronas towers). But the real reason is, I got so fed up with these people who have nothing to do with their lives but make other lives miserable. I remember screaming at the sight of Bin Laden's face on the TV screen: *"Why can't you just buy Ferraris or a summer house and leave us alone!"* I feel afraid because of the possibility of having a world war soon. I feel sad because a lot of lives were lost. The Americans helped the world in a way despite some of them being proud and mean. This was a humbling experience that I will never forget. Looking back at the trailer of "Miss Congeniality" where all of the contestants were answering "world peace," I now think maybe they were smart enough to answer that, after all.—**Tammy David, student, Immaculate Conception Academy, 2bU! correspondent**

Whoever did it deserves to suffer.—**Cecilia Calero**

I am greatly appalled at what happened. Such inhuman people certainly deserve no rightful place in heaven. They deserve eternal damnation. Now is the time to work hand in hand, because we cannot afford to witness another devastating incident. These things must come to a halt!—**Gabriel Libarios, journalism student, UST**



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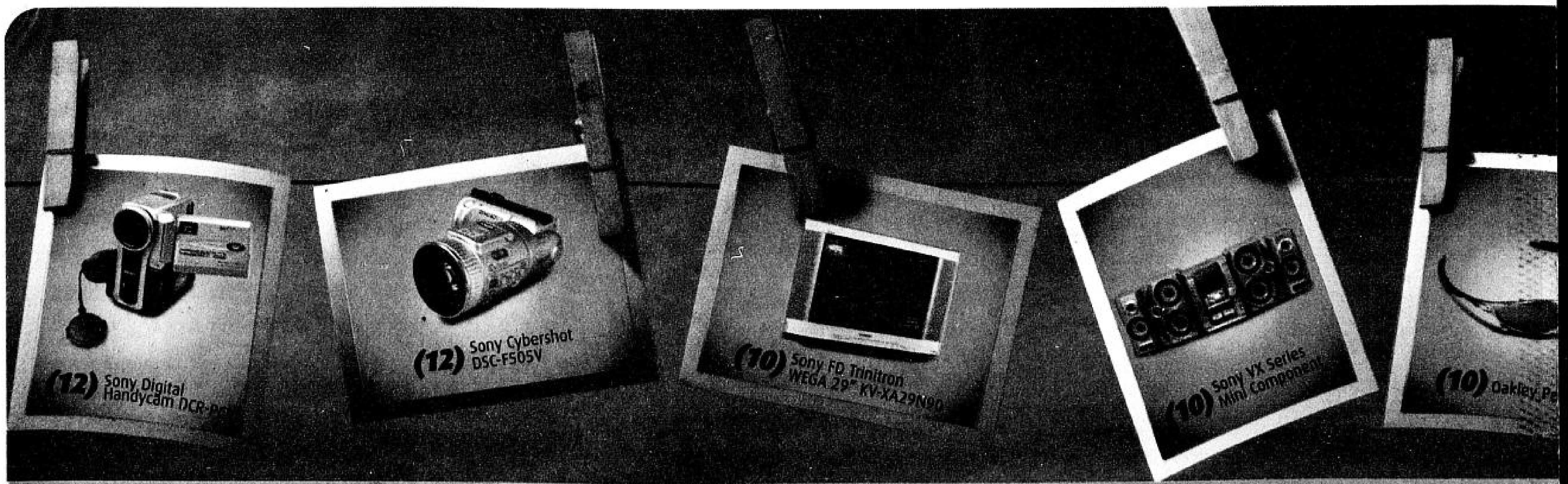
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What the world needs less of now is insensitive text

There is a time for everything. And now, right in the midst of this crisis, is not the time for stupid text messages

IT'S still hard to absorb what happened in New York last week. It unfolded before many people, well documented and superbly covered by every news channel in the world. But still, I stared in disbelief, hoping and wishing it was just a movie with first-rate special effects.

And so I remained slightly detached—until I received a text from my friend: "'In the city of York there will be a great collapse, two twin brothers torn apart by chaos' and 'The third big war will begin when the big city is burning'—Nostradamus."

The initial reaction, of course, was surprise—and curiosity. Did Nostradamus really say that? Maybe, maybe not. Okay, fine. Then the second reaction hit me. Harder. Who cares? So what if he did? Really, ask yourself this: What value is it to us if some dude centuries ago in either a fit of psychic brilliance or hoax-spreading malevolence decided to write this stuff down? More so—are we sure he really wrote this?

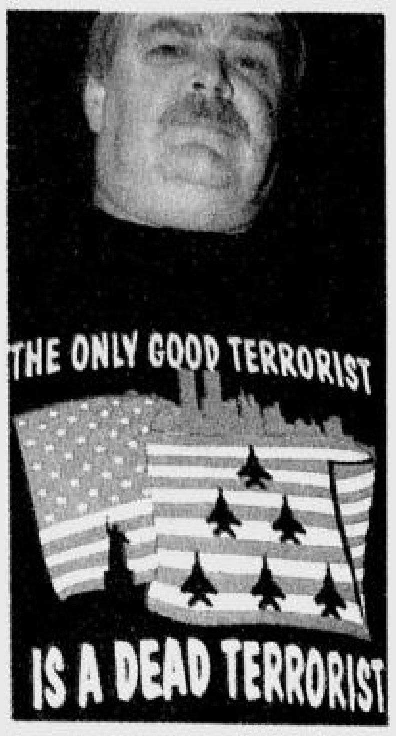
Thousands of people died in the US. And we cannot do a single thing except pray. I know prayer seems even more detached. You sitting there, mumbling words etched in rote memory—that just doesn't seem enough. I know.

But still, compare praying to spreading **unconfirmed** news that, in all honesty, is saying that World War III is upon us! That this person centuries ago correctly prophesized the event, and since, of course, he got that one right, then his second sentence about a third war must be equally right!

Now again, ask yourself: Even if he was right, what good is that to us? Even more: What if it was not true? What kind of heartless demon would use this event to spread even more terror and lies?

As I continued to watch the events, I seethed from the growing frustration inside me. By spreading the prophecy, did not the people further help the terrorists spread their evil as well? How narrow-minded! How unfeeling! How mean!

Gabriel Mercado



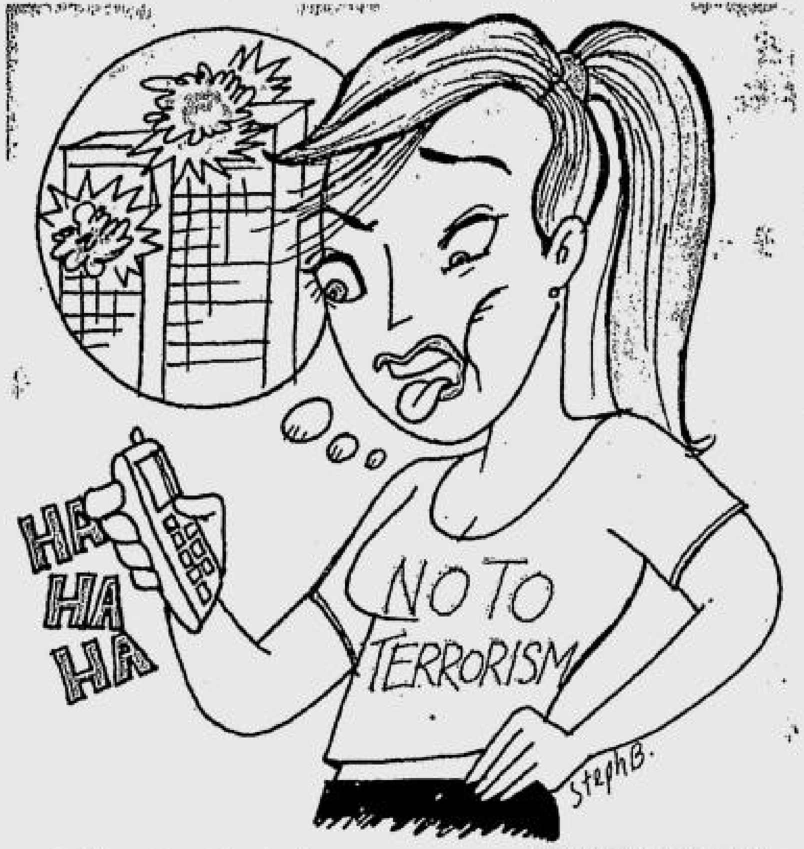


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

I HAVE been so proud of Filipino texters—even prouder to be one of them. Despite that idiocy about the Pope's supposed demise more than a year ago and the countless stupid jokes and mushy quotes I continue to ignore, I had believed that this technology was actually doing us all a lot of good. Text, in fact, contributed greatly to the ousting of that corrupt leader.

Thumb power—who hasn't enjoyed the convenience?

But last week's events have led me to see another side of the Filipino texter. Cold, heartless, unfeeling. Thousands of people have died, families have forever lost their loved ones and what do they do? Send jokes about the tragedy. What was that again? "Arabs are prohibited to travel and can only fly using their carpets now"? What the hell is that? That's supposed to be a joke? "The Statue of Liberty dropped her torch because of too much dust from the debris"? Come on! This is not funny—not in the least bit.

Okay, so maybe this is just another example of how Filipinos use humor to cope with tragedies. But now is not the time. Something as serious as this will never induce a smile—and definitely not a chuckle—from me and from all the other level-headed human beings out there.

You saw people jumping out of buildings, you saw people dazed and bloodied, you saw great infrastructure crumbling into smithereens, you saw volunteers working 12-hour shifts trying to dig up their fellow Americans—and you still had the audacity to send out pathetic attempts at humor?

I am furious. I cannot fathom the thought of human beings killing countless innocent lives for their twisted principles. What enrages me even more are the individuals who seem to be having a blast while the rest of the world mourns.

The past days, every single time I hear an incoming text message in my phone, I cringe. I cringe and I cross my fingers that it is not another joke. And if it does turn out to be one, I pray that it be not from any of my good friends. I do not want to completely lose my respect for them.

Quit sending stupid jokes. They aren't doing anything to help. What exactly do you achieve by sending these forwarded messages out? Not only are you making the telecoms companies richer, you're also showing the world how insensitive you can get.

Have a heart, use your brain. Be a little more sensitive. Have a little more feeling. Stop your cruel jokes. That's the last thing the world needs now.

Pam Pastor

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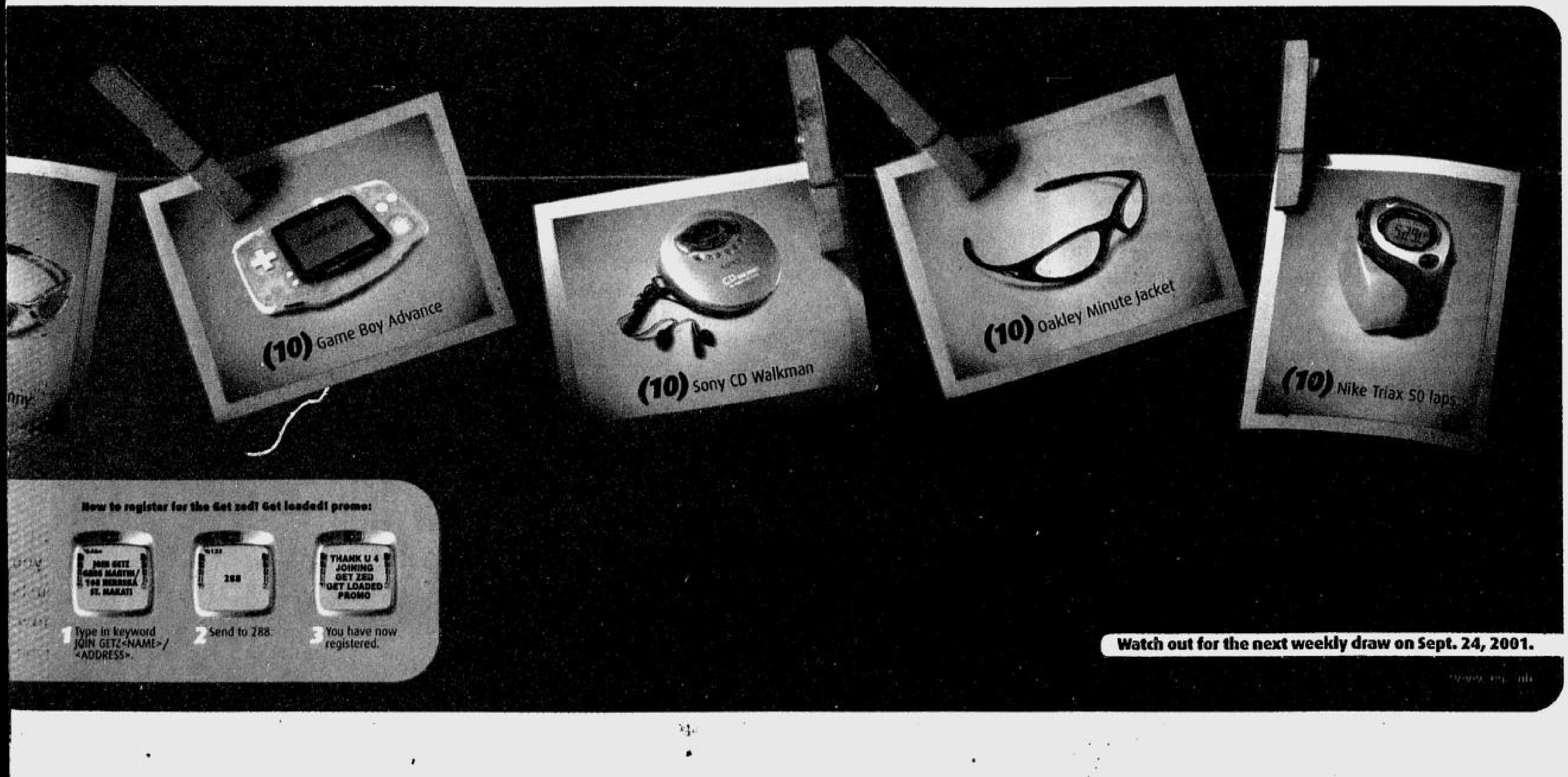
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Question of the Week
September 15-21

Sino ang pumatay kay Magellan?

1. Rajah Kulambo
2. Lapu Lapu
3. Datu Puti

Ang daling sumali!

To earn a raffle entry, you must answer 2 questions correctly.

1 Dial 135-1 para i-text ang sagot sa Question of the Week.*

2 Kung tama ang sagot mo, hintayin ang second question.

3 Para sagutin ang second question, ibaba ang telepono at muling i-dial ang 135-1.

4 Kung tama ang sagot mo, i-text ang pangalan at birthday.
For example:
- Name Entry: Dan Ty
  Press 3 once for the letter D, press 2 once for the letter A, press 6 two times for the letter N. Press 0 for space. Press 8 once for the letter T, press 9 three times for the letter Y. Press # two times to submit your name.
- Birthday Entry: July 13, 1965
  Press 07131965 to submit your birthday.

5 If you want to send more entries, dial ka uli ng 135-1 at i-text ang sagot. Entries should be sent from 6:00 am to 12:00 mn. Abangan ang resulta ng bola sa newspapers o sa mail.

Araw-araw ang bola, milyun-milyon ang pera!

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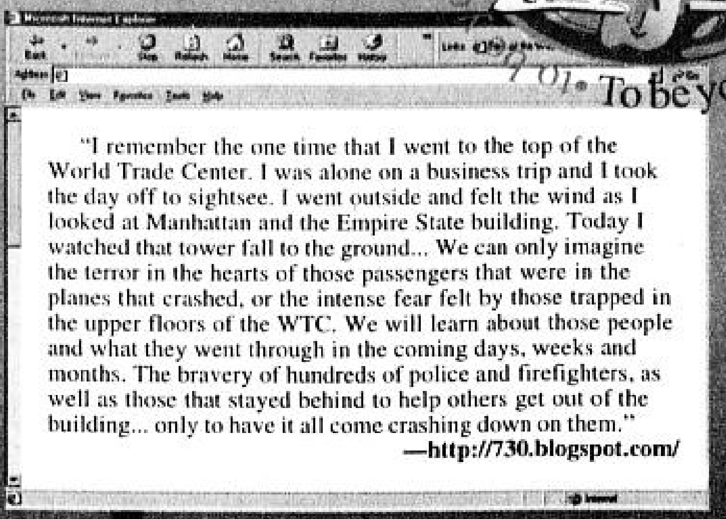
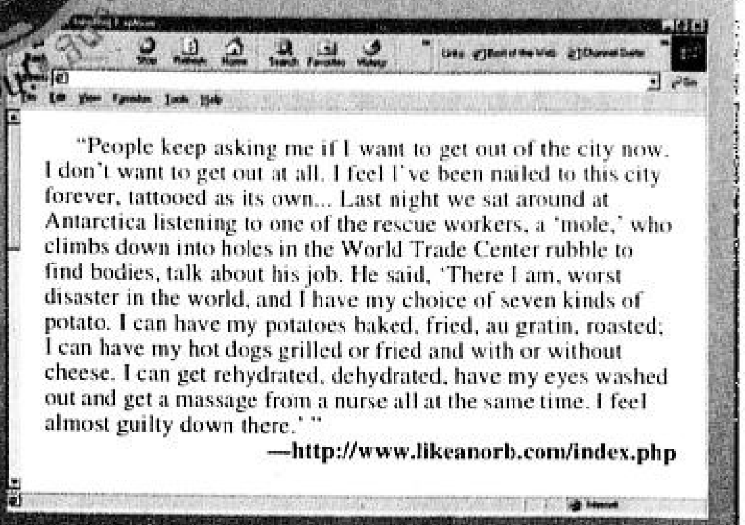
Promo period from August 12 to November 16, 2001.
See leaflet for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1257. Series of 2001.
PLDT



"I remember the one time that I went to the top of the World Trade Center. I was alone on a business trip and I took the day off to sightsee. I went outside and felt the wind as I looked at Manhattan and the Empire State building. Today I watched that tower fall to the ground... We can only imagine the terror in the hearts of those passengers that were in the planes that crashed, or the intense fear felt by those trapped in the upper floors of the WTC. We will learn about those people and what they went through in the coming days, weeks and months. The bravery of hundreds of police and firefighters, as well as those that stayed behind to help others get out of the building... only to have it all come crashing down on them."

—http://730.blogspot.com/



"People keep asking me if I want to get out of the city now. I don't want to get out at all. I feel I've been nailed to this city forever, tattooed as its own... Last night we sat around at Antarctica listening to one of the rescue workers, a 'mole,' who climbs down into holes in the World Trade Center rubble to find bodies, talk about his job. He said, 'There I am, worst disaster in the world, and I have my choice of seven kinds of potato. I can have my potatoes baked, fried, au gratin, roasted; I can have my hot dogs grilled or fried and with or without cheese. I can get rehydrated, dehydrated, have my eyes washed out and get a massage from a nurse all at the same time. I feel almost guilty down there.' "

—http://www.likeanorb.com/index.php

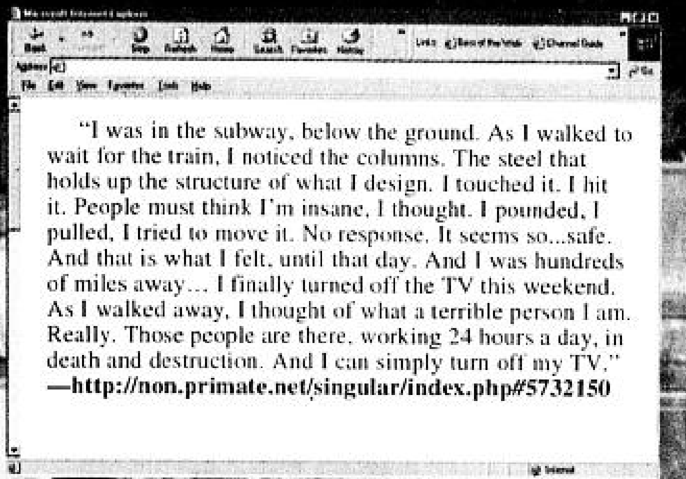
Online refuge

Since last Tuesday's attacks, thousands of people tried to find solace in the World Wide Web, posting their accounts of or their reaction to the terror that shocked humanity

YOU have watched countless hours of CNN. You saw the World Trade Center (WTC) twin towers collapse. You have shed tears for strangers. Somehow, you feel the need to connect. You want faces behind the stories. You want stories from real people, not just hard news.

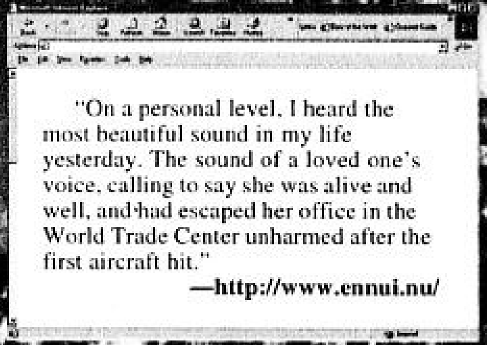
Since Sept. 11, people have turned to the Internet to give their own accounts of what happened or to read other people's stories. Here are excerpts from some online journals. Head for the links for more entries. These are real human beings, ordinary citizens talking.

Pam Pastor



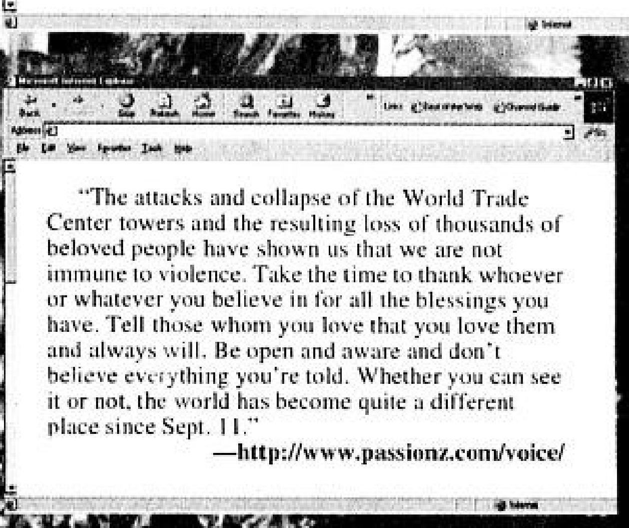
"I was in the subway, below the ground. As I walked to wait for the train, I noticed the columns. The steel that holds up the structure of what I design. I touched it. I hit it. People must think I'm insane, I thought. I pounded, I pulled, I tried to move it. No response. It seems so...safe. And that is what I felt, until that day. And I was hundreds of miles away... I finally turned off the TV this weekend. As I walked away, I thought of what a terrible person I am. Really. Those people are there, working 24 hours a day, in death and destruction. And I can simply turn off my TV."

—http://non.primate.net/singular/index.php#5732150



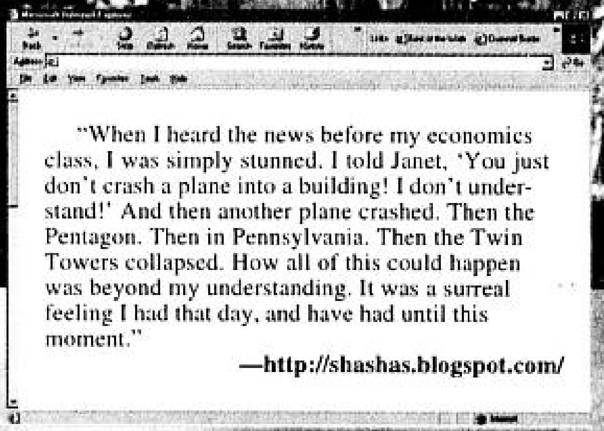
"On a personal level, I heard the most beautiful sound in my life yesterday. The sound of a loved one's voice, calling to say she was alive and well, and had escaped her office in the World Trade Center unharmed after the first aircraft hit."

—http://www.ennui.nu/



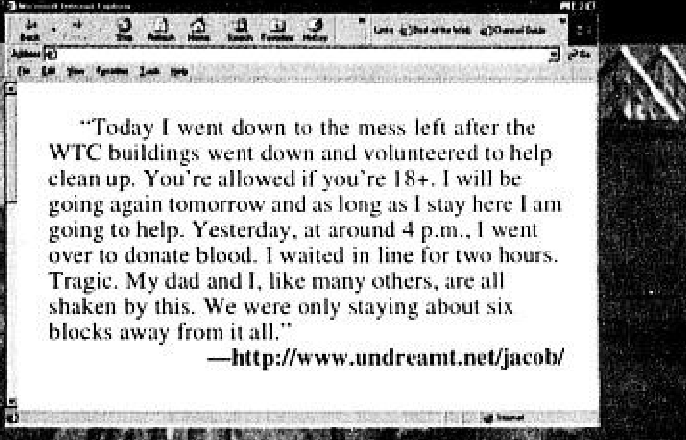
"The attacks and collapse of the World Trade Center towers and the resulting loss of thousands of beloved people have shown us that we are not immune to violence. Take the time to thank whoever or whatever you believe in for all the blessings you have. Tell those whom you love that you love them and always will. Be open and aware and don't believe everything you're told. Whether you can see it or not, the world has become quite a different place since Sept. 11."

—http://www.passionz.com/voice/



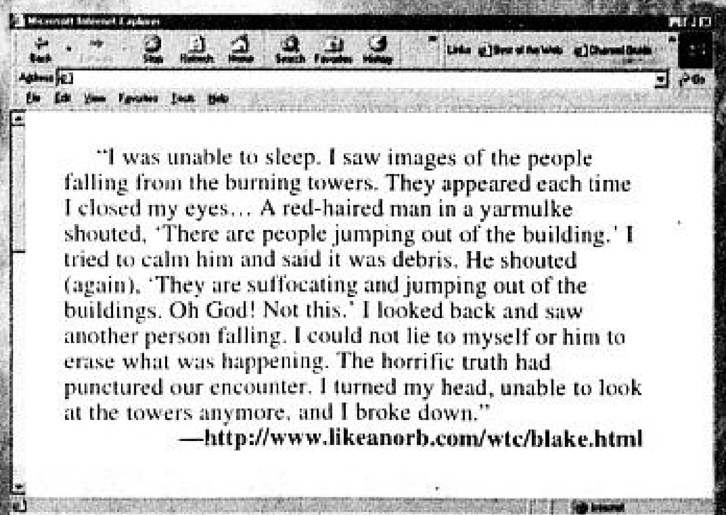
"When I heard the news before my economics class, I was simply stunned. I told Janet, 'You just don't crash a plane into a building! I don't understand!' And then another plane crashed. Then the Pentagon. Then in Pennsylvania. Then the Twin Towers collapsed. How all of this could happen was beyond my understanding. It was a surreal feeling I had that day, and have had until this moment."

—http://shashas.blogspot.com/



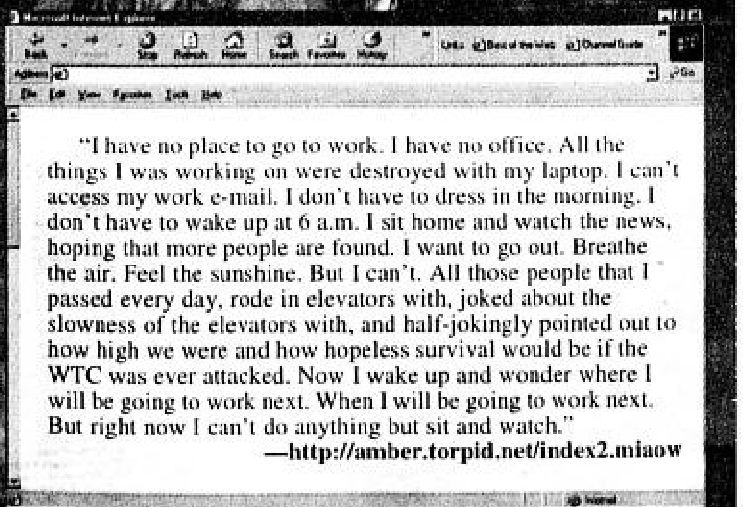
"Today I went down to the mess left after the WTC buildings went down and volunteered to help clean up. You're allowed if you're 18+. I will be going again tomorrow and as long as I stay here I am going to help. Yesterday, at around 4 p.m., I went over to donate blood. I waited in line for two hours. Tragic. My dad and I, like many others, are all shaken by this. We were only staying about six blocks away from it all."

—http://www.undreamt.net/jacob/



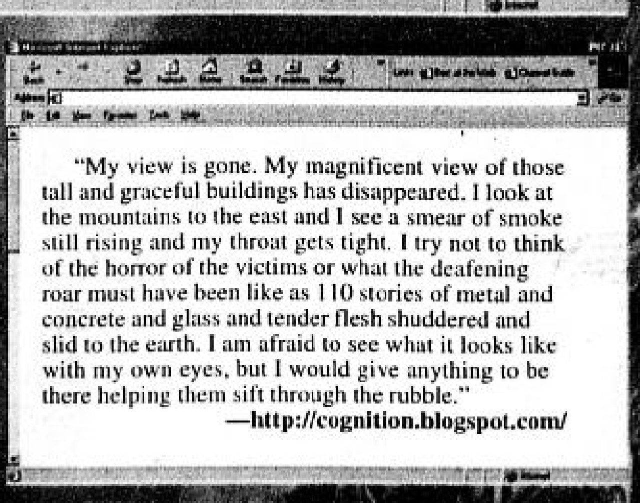
"I was unable to sleep. I saw images of the people falling from the burning towers. They appeared each time I closed my eyes… A red-haired man in a yarmulke shouted, 'There are people jumping out of the building.' I tried to calm him and said it was debris. He shouted (again), 'They are suffocating and jumping out of the buildings. Oh God! Not this.' I looked back and saw another person falling. I could not lie to myself or him to erase what was happening. The horrific truth had punctured our encounter. I turned my head, unable to look at the towers anymore, and I broke down."

—http://www.likeanorb.com/wtc/blake.html



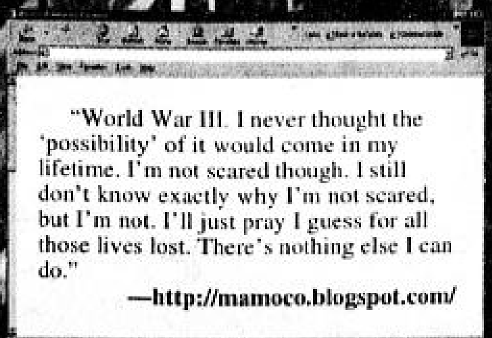
"I have no place to go to work. I have no office. All the things I was working on were destroyed with my laptop. I can't access my work e-mail. I don't have to dress in the morning. I don't have to wake up at 6 a.m. I sit home and watch the news, hoping that more people are found. I want to go out. Breathe the air. Feel the sunshine. But I can't. All those people that I passed every day, rode in elevators with, joked about the slowness of the elevators with, and half-jokingly pointed out to how high we were and how hopeless survival would be if the WTC was ever attacked. Now I wake up and wonder where I will be going to work next. When I will be going to work next. But right now I can't do anything but sit and watch."

—http://amber.torpid.net/index2.miaow



"My view is gone. My magnificent view of those tall and graceful buildings has disappeared. I look at the mountains to the east and I see a smear of smoke still rising and my throat gets tight. I try not to think of the horror of the victims or what the deafening roar must have been like as 110 stories of metal and concrete and glass and tender flesh shuddered and slid to the earth. I am afraid to see what it looks like with my own eyes, but I would give anything to be there helping them sift through the rubble."

—http://cognition.blogspot.com/



"World War III. I never thought the 'possibility' of it would come in my lifetime. I'm not scared though. I still don't know exactly why I'm not scared, but I'm not. I'll just pray I guess for all those lives lost. There's nothing else I can do."

—http://mamoco.blogspot.com/

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LIFESTYLE

2bU

MANHATTANVILLE

ROMAR Dulay

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A 17-year-old fulfills his dreams

DESPITE the turbulence that have currently been rocking the nation, there is still that fervent hope for a bright future. One proof of such hope is 17-year-old Romar Dulay. Last March, Dulay, a student of the Regional Science High School in Olongapo, won the Creative Youth Scholarship, a four-year college education grant to Manhattanville, an exclusive liberal arts college in Westchester, New York.

The scholarship was granted by Keith Bernhard, chair of DDB, one of the largest advertising agencies in the world. He is an alumnus of Manhattanville and a recent recipient of the Castle Award, which is given out annually by the school to an outstanding alumnus who exemplifies excellent creativity and community service. To express his gratitude in receiving the award, he decided to reward a scholarship to a student with exemplary talent and creative skills. He instructed DDB to organize a search for the deserving student in six key cities with DDB branches, namely: Milan, Sao Paolo, New York Cairo, Lagos and Manila. Out of the numerous candidates, the lucky winner was Dulay.

Born and raised in Olongapo, Romar is the youngest of three children. His mother and two sisters migrated to Dubai four years ago. Since then, he has been living alone in the family home in Olongapo.

He had a fairly normal childhood, having enjoyed playing with friends, flying kites and climbing trees. As he grew older, he developed a penchant for reading, spending more time indoors, poring over novels. "But I've never lost that sense of adventure," he claims. His class adviser of three school years, Angelita Villaflor, says of her young student: "Despite his being multitalented and one of the top four in class, he is a typical teenage boy who enjoys the simple things in life." She goes on to say that he is a great writer and even served as editor in chief of the school paper. "But most of all, he's a survivor, having lived independently for the past four years."

Several steps were taken to find the right candidate for the grant. In Manila, the DDB local branch contacted the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) for a list of the top 50 schools in Luzon. The schools were invited to allow their students to apply for the scholarship grant and to send in their applications by January. Their skills were tested via a contest entitled "Creative Youth Scholarship Challenge," which required students to render their own interpretations of the contest theme: "What creates a creative child in the millennium." The students were given the liberty to select any medium they pleased.

Dulay impressed the panel of judges with his

A 17-YEAR-OLD/ p.D3

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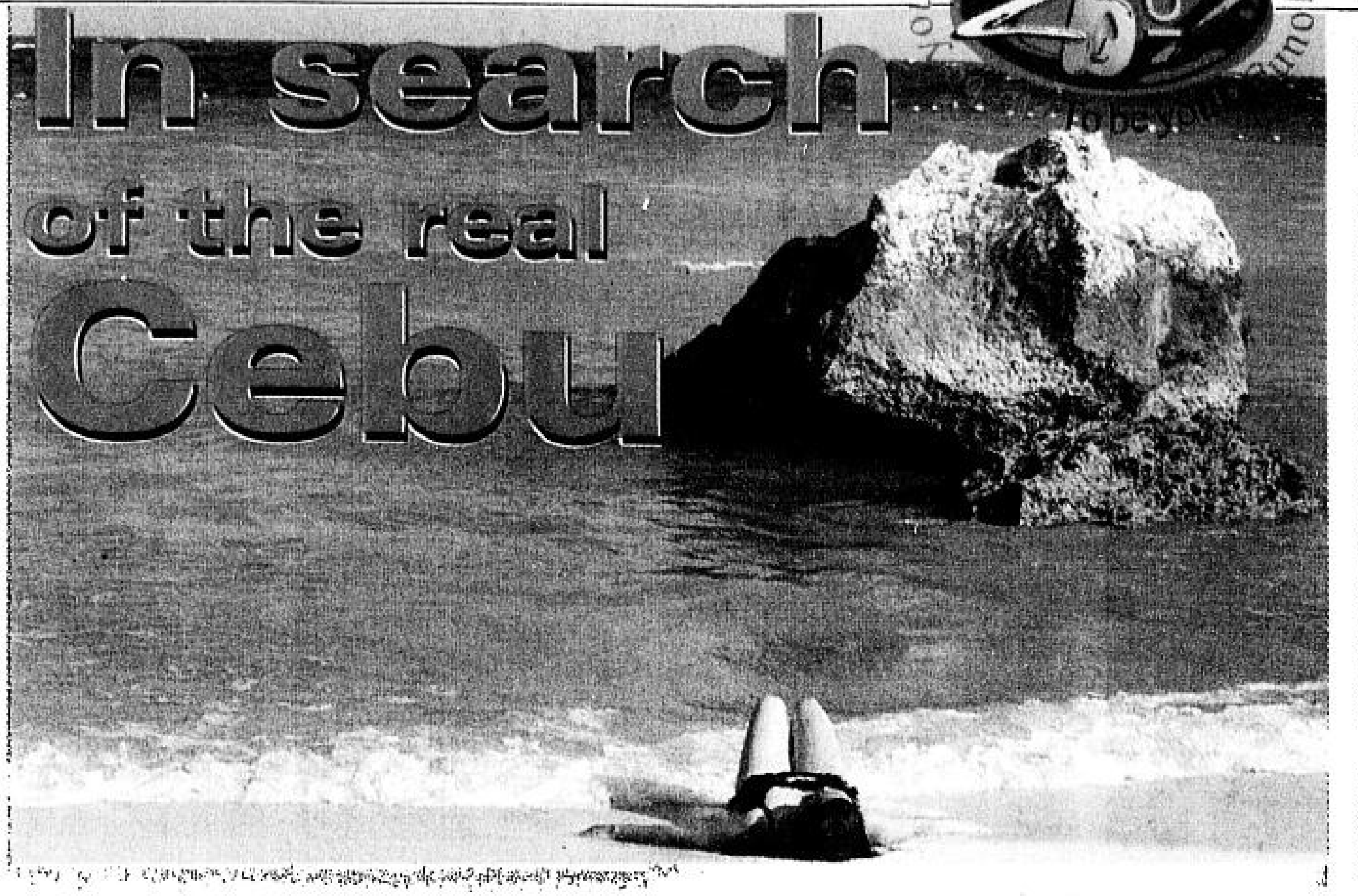
In search of the real Cebu



SOAKING UP THE SUN'S RAYS. Plantation Bay Cebu

BY PAM PASTOR
PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

THE THING with sponsored trips is that they take you to the best places, billet you at the best hotels, feed you the best delicacies and introduce you to the supposedly best people of whichever place you go to. Yes, the operative word is "best." Call me a bitch for complaining about the good things, but most of my trips leave me wanting.

There is that constant need to discover the true essence of whichever place I am in, whether in the most posh village of Makati to the dingiest corner of Quiapo. Hotels will always be hotels, bars will be just bars. And experiencing the tourist-y side of any city will definitely not allow you a look into its soul, into what makes it different from all the other cities in the world.

During the few days I spent in Cebu, I was determined to discover its other beauty. The beauty that the Cebuanos see and feel—I wanted the real Cebu experience. I tried dipping my foot in that reality during my second trip to Cebu. Mozart and I decided to leave the hotel at midnight to ride the colorful jeepneys and walk around ordinary neighborhoods. On my third trip, I knew I needed more than that. Joan, Pinoycentral's Yasmine and I tried to squeeze in whatever we could in our three-day schedule. In between food-tripping at fantastic restaurants, partying at the hottest nightspots, shopping at the mall and relaxing at the amazing resorts, we were on a quest. We wanted to find the real Cebu.

We visited Carbon despite the numerous warnings from local residents and cab drivers that the place isn't the safest place you could be, especially if you were three women. But I haven't been told numerous times that I should have been born male for nothing. I can kick serious ass. Hell, I commute in Quiapo. I can take on any market any day.

Assault on senses

Carbon is their equivalent of Divisoria. And the place, if the warnings say anything at all, has apparently been teeming with thieves and cell phone snatchers. That in mind, we kept our cell phones and wallets close to our bodies and away from anyone's sight. The cab driver dropped us off, and this one didn't seem to care if we got shot or whatever. When we asked which way we should go, he waved us off and drove off, without even finishing his sentence. "*Magtanong kayo...*" We were in the middle of a noisy market—we could have been in Blumentritt for all we knew—and we didn't know where to go. A woman gave us directions. We started walking. We passed by stalls selling fruits and fish. Piles of fuchsia-colored *bagoong* were heaped on *bilaos* on the sidewalk. On the other side of the street were low tables piled high with second-hand clothes that were being sold for as low as P5. Adolescent boys held megaphones to their mouths and continued shouting "P5 *na lang*" while the crowds fighting over the faded fabrics grew bigger and bigger. There was too much to take in too fast. It was a sensory overload, a total assault on my senses.

We kept walking, with Joan constantly expressing her disappointment she did not bring her camera. Yes, there were a lot of things that could have been photographed, but would that have been worth the risk of having her lose her beloved camera?

We soon reached what we were looking for. A tiny store in the corner that sold all sorts of accessories—beaded and braided, necklaces and bracelets. Accessories that you could buy in the mall for even 10 times the price. We started on a buying frenzy, throwing in house décor, native slippers and even a few wooden boxes that I had no idea what I would use for. Yet another adolescent boy was manning the stall, along with a snooty-looking girl in her mid-20s. I was joking around with the boy, trying to make him smile as he undertook the difficult task of trying to compute our purchases and trying to figure out which one was whose. Then I started cajoling him into giving us a discount. "*Ang dami naman naming binili eh! Sige na.*" After much saliva-usage on my part, he finally said yes. "*Wag mo na sabihin sa kanya, ati,*" nodding his head at his older counterpart. I felt a sudden pang of guilt. But then he smiled and told me everything was okay. Just before we left, lugging our purchases in the huge backs we brought with us, the girl said "*Ingatan n'yo po 'yung mga gamit n'yo. Maraming magnanakaw.*" The girl's concern filled me with warmth—but I also felt sheepish about thinking she was snooty.

It was getting dark. Much as we wanted to do more exploring, our schedule—and okay, our nerves that were getting jumpier by the minute—did not permit that. Asking another woman for directions, we were given a short cut through a long alley also lined with stalls. Seemed that stores in Carbon closed early, since the alley was almost deserted, with just a few people every few feet. I suddenly noticed that Joan was walking faster, her eyes darting to the side, eyeing a man in red who seemed to be following us. My heart started to pound and I began to walk faster, bumping into Joan. "*Bilis,*" we were whispering to ourselves, feeling total relief when we finally came out of the alley and into a brighter, comfortably filled with people street. With no cabs in sight, we decided to ride a hot pink jeepney and got off near Magellan's Cross. We wanted to show Joan the cross and the beautiful church since it was her first time in Cebu. The church was packed with people praying and lighting candles. Sacks of candles lined one side of the church. Joan was again wishing for her camera. Outside the church were balloon vendors that reminded me of my childhood in Manila.

It was getting even darker. We knew we had to eat dinner soon and then head for the event that was scheduled that evening. We didn't want another commercial restaurant. We asked the cab driver for tips. I wish I could see him again, I would like to thank him. My palate owes him greatly.

We all agreed on AA Barbecue in Salinas Drive, Lahug City, in the food court of the University of Southern Philippines (Lucky students!). The ambience of the place is nothing to brag about. A table laden with raw food soaked in marinade would greet you at the entrance. Monobloc tables and chairs are all around and smoke from the grill fills the entire place (definitely not for the asthmatic). Since it was a full night, we were stuck in a corner table near the entrance. The table was right against the window of the stall that sold *lechon manok* next door. Read: heat. But the food definitely made up for it. And we didn't have to wait long. Stuffed squid, dried squid, chicken, *longganisa* and *liempo* all grilled to smoky perfection were on our table barely five minutes after we ordered. The tall glasses of mango shake were so good our eyes watered. And the whole feast cost us just P368. Talk about value for your money.

Essence of the city

That day, we made Cebu our playground. But it left me wondering—did I find the real Cebu I had been looking for?

On the plane on our way back to Manila, I settled back in my seat and tried to remember what it was about the trip that struck me the most. How Y 101 owner Louie Luque and his wife let me and Yasmine crash their night out that Friday and brought us to the best party places. How Orly of Sunstar left his friends to take us around the newest bars on Saturday when he ran into us at Hi-life. (At close to 5 a.m., he was still raring to go to Tops so we could view the sunrise. That's what I call energy.) How one cab driver patiently drove us wherever we wanted to go, even if we kept asking him to stop so we could buy more *pasalubong* and we seemed to be going in circles. (You'll never get that in Manila.) How Jojie and his wife Rhoda and almost all the other people I met in Cebu before also wanted to take us out when they heard we were in town. How the *tindera* in the market was so concerned about the possibility that we could lose our cell phones. How friendly and accommodating the salesladies at a jewelry booth at Ayala Center were. They continued to smile as Yasmine tried all the necklaces on. They even remembered me from my last visit there which was months ago. How Kenneth Lim of Dessert Factory made true his promise to make my next Cebu visit sinful, with the luscious cheesecakes and all. How people I had never seen before in my life smiled at us while we walk in the malls. The funny waiter at Sunburst, the amiable people at Su Tu Kil.

And just when the plane hit the concrete ground of Manila, I realized it didn't matter if you were submerged in the tourist or the suburban side of Cebu. The real Cebu experience lies in experiencing its people. It is in their vibrancy and warmth that you find the essence of this city.

E-mail the author at p-a-m-m-y@gurlmail.com.

HANGING IN MI VIDA. (From left) Yasmine, the author and Orly from Sunstar Cebu

RAW FEAST. The "buffet" in AA BBQ

Never leave Cebu without . . .

YOUNGEST DJ. 13-year-old Josh

... dancing at High Life.

... ordering Chic 'n Crackers at Sunburst. That huge plate of chicken skin and kropek is unforgettable.

... pigging out on Dessert Factory's latest concoctions.

... partying at The Village.

... chilling out at Vudu. Allow me to sound like a gushy superficial teenybopper for a second. Cebu is eye candy galore—there are countless yummy-looking guys there.

... trying the Margherita Pizza at Il Ristorante in The Village. This huge, cheesy, flavorful pizza that can be shared by three or four people is just P180.

... shopping at Kuting-things in Ayala Center.

... visiting Carbon.

... riding the colorful jeepneys.

... listening to Y 101. Try to catch their youngest DJ, 13-year-old Josh.

... enjoying the barbecue at Teritoryo San Miguel or AA.

... eating the freshest seafood from Su Tu Kil or Blue Ripples.

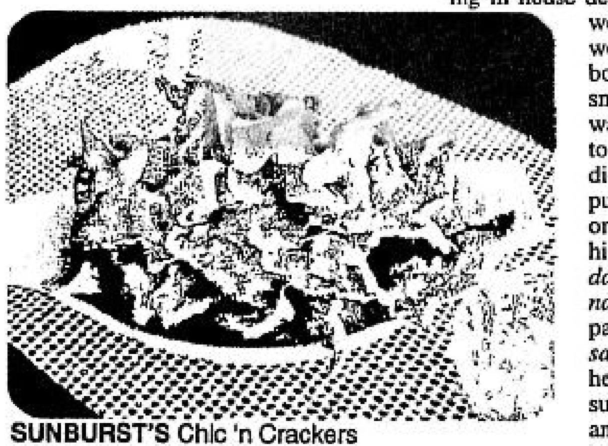
... catching the breath-taking view at Tops.

... ordering the melt-in-your-mouth chicharon bulaklak at Mr. A. (Just the thought of it makes my mouth water.)

... passing through Fernan Bridge.

... visiting Magellan's Cross.

Pam Pastor



SUNBURST'S Chic 'n Crackers

You know you're in Cebu when . . .

...*lanzones, santol* and durian vendors are all over the streets, like cigarette and newspaper vendors are in Manila.

... people start complaining after 15 minutes of traffic.

... soap isn't just used in the bathroom... "Crossroads" isn't just an old Bone Thugs song...The Village isn't only your subdivision—these are the places where you party.

... good-looking people are all over the place. (Okay, maybe you're in Manila, too.)

... people go to gimmicks in the most laid back outfits and are not greeted by raised eyebrows.

... you find an entire market that sells hardly anything else but dried fish.

... jeepneys are neon-colored.

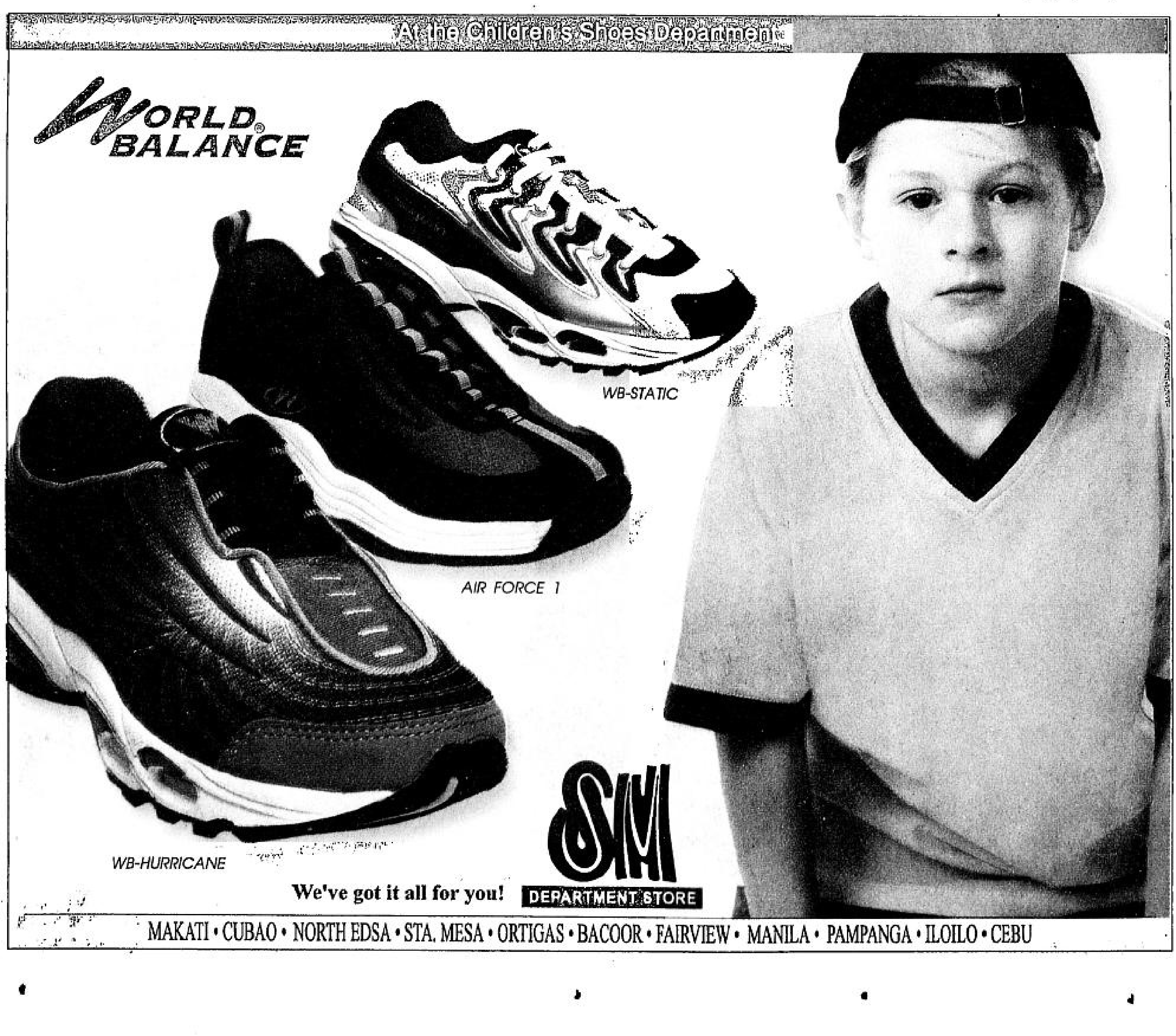
... food is good AND inexpensive.

... there are still balloon vendors outside the church.

... strangers smile at you for no reason.

... cab drivers actually seem to be decent human beings. They give you even your P1 change, they let you in without asking where you're going first, they don't negotiate for bigger fares and they don't drive off while your foot is still in the cab.

Pam Pastor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When the chorus takes centerstage

By Ricky T. Gallardo

A FEW nights ago, a very small group of theater lovers trooped to the San Miguel Corporation Auditorium to observe the music rehearsals for a musical revue that will feature the best chorus members who have served as the backbone of many of the musical stagings in the past decade.

Roden Araneta, Melanie Dujunco, Sheila Francisco, Mio Infante, Eladio Pamaran, Sweet Plantado, Jun Ofrasio and Lito Villareal were perfecting their notes as Prof. Ryan Cayabyab took them from one classic piece to the next. The group was preparing for their first grand concert as "lead stars," a venture that is much-deserved and long-overdue.

"We just wanted it simple," said Plantado, who is also a member of the highly touted vocals group The CompanY. "But when we broached the idea to Mr. C (Cayabyab's moniker), *sabi niya, bakit hindi pa sa mas malaking* venue?" Not only that, Cayabyab volunteered to be musical director.

The group's bond with Cayabyab started in the early '90s when the maestro's works on "El Fili" and "Noli" were being staged by the Cultural Center of the Philippines-based Tanghalang Pilipino theater company.

Dujunco was the only other Filipino actor in the recent Singapore staging of "They're Playing Our Song" aside from Lea Salonga. Villareal and Francisco are both active members of Trumpets Productions, he being one of the composers of the much talked-about (and still extended) "Little Mermaid" and she, the villainness Crustacea. Both also got glowing reviews for their support roles in the musical "Chang & Eng" when it ran in Singapore earlier this year.

Ofrasio was in "Miss Saigon," which also gave *balikbayan* Pamaran a taste of how things are being done on the high-end stages of New York, Berlin and London. Araneta also bagged a chorus part in the recent Manila staging. Infante dabbles as a production designer in first-rate local productions.

The concert, billed as "Coro Cuckoo," is inspired by the Broadway hit musical "A Chorus Line" and each of the eight cuckoos will be given their spotlight onstage by Mr. C and stage director Freddie Santos.

Tonight, when the curtains rise at the Onstage Theater in Greenbelt, it will be the turn of these highly touted ensemble actors to play the lead roles and belt out the tunes that once belonged only to the stars.

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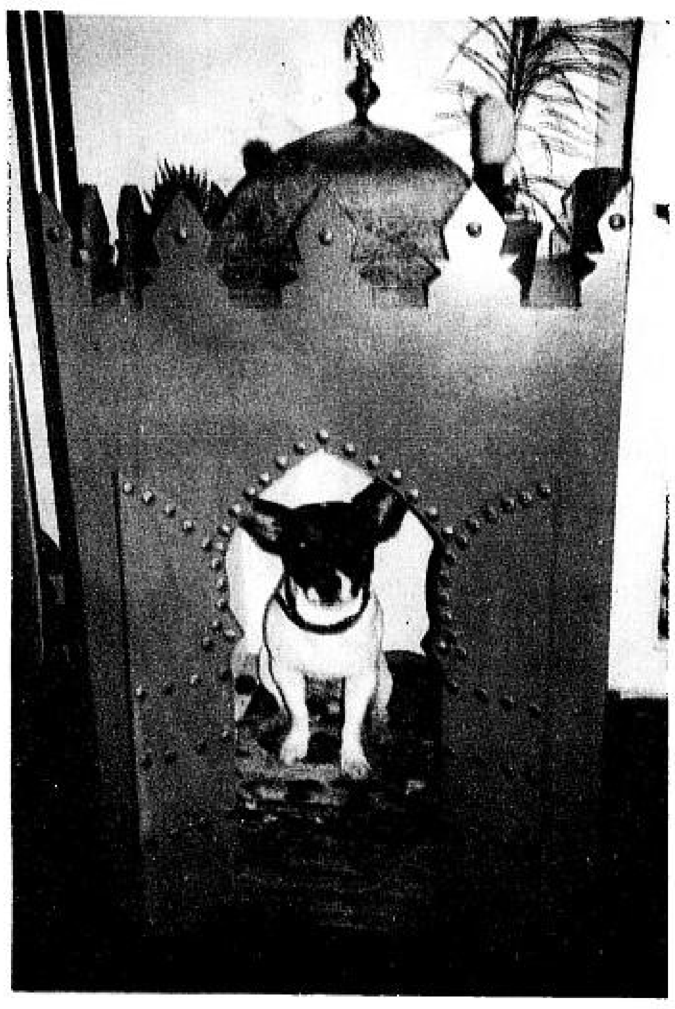

MOROCCO AT FIRMA. Moroccan doghouse (designed by Richard Danao) with resident Jack Russel terrier, Walter.

MOROCCAN zebra-print cowhide slippers on a leather pouf

A 17-year-old fulfills his dreams

(From page D1)

essay and painting. "He's a very talented writer and artist," says Anabel Velasquez Alejandrino, one of the eight judges and alumna of Manhattanville. "His talent as well as his confidence and sense of independence prompted us to pick him as the winner."

Supporters

A group of Manhattanville alumni in the Philippines started raising funds to help shoulder Romar's expenses for his four-year scholarship. Spearheading the committee is alumna Doris Magsaysay-Ho. She appealed to her fellow alumni to make financial contributions for Dulay's pocket money, clothing allowance, living expenses and airfare for flying home to the Philippines once a year.

Manhattanville was once an exclusive, all-girls Catholic school. Many Kennedy women studied there. It became a coed liberal arts college in 1971 and now accepts 1,600 students per year.

Dulay departed for New York on Aug. 24, in time for his classes on Aug. 29. He flew on Northwest Airlines, which gave him a free ticket to the United States. When asked what he liked about the campus, which he got to visit last April, he quips, "It's very near New York City, a short train ride, yet it's still far away from the suburbs."

"We're so enthused and impressed with Romar," says Magsaysay-Ho. "He gave me renewed confidence in the educational system of our country."

When asked what he wants to do for the country with his education, Dulay replies, "I can't pay all our international debts, so I'd like to put away all the corrupt politicians. But not through the death penalty. I don't believe in that."

"I want to finish college, grow and learn from my experience in Manhattanville and make everyone proud of me, especially those who expect a lot from me," he says.

This is his message to the youth: "Stay in school, no matter how much you hate studying. Education will help you go places and fulfill all your dreams."

With determined, young people like Romar Dulay, the Philippines indeed shows promise of a wonderful future ahead.

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

	Date	Venue
1. NCR Division I (Quezon City)	September 8	Makati Coliseum
2. Cebu	September 15	Mandaue Sports Complex
3. NCR Division II (Manila, Pasay)	September 22	Makati Coliseum
4. NCR Division III (Makati, Alabang, Muntinlupa, Pateros, Taguig, Las Piñas, Parañaque)	September 29	Makati Coliseum
5. NCR Division IV (Malabon, Caloocan, Navotas, Valenzuela, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Marikina, Rizal)	September 30	Makati Coliseum
6. Davao	October 6	RMC Gym
7. Iloilo	October 13	University of San Agustin
8. Grand Finals	November 24	PhilSports Arena (formerly ULTRA)

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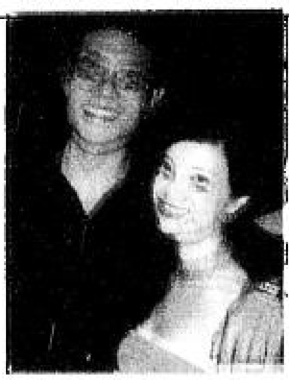
AT THE HUT. Linda Pastoral and Sen. Loren Legarda


FWD couple Jerome and Anna Garcia of Cal Carrie's

JUNGLE JUICE. Ana Sicat and Miguel Rosales

DJ JAM. Louie Y and Manolet Dario

TWO B's. Blanca Araneta and Blanca Valerio

JUNGLE LOUNGE. David Jacob and Kat delos Santos

MODEL MANIA. Sonya and Mickey of Cal Carrie's

ANIMAL PRINT. Paolo Prieto and Tessa Valdes

PlanetOftheAPES

Tim Yap

WELL, not exactly, but almost.

"Welcome to the jungle," said the tribal invite to the grand opening party of Hutu's Hut, the Kalayaan Avenue hotspot, a few weeks ago. The celebration was a mix of disco nostalgia and modern-day jungle beats as hut owner **Philip Pastoral** opened the second-floor bar gates.

"I want Hutu's to be the bohemian hangout in Makati, a sort of escape from the confining walls of the office," said the young restaurateur of his resto, which is fast gaining popularity among yuppies during weekdays and students on weekends.

That hot launch night, it was a sheer gathering of the city's bourgeois bohemians, or "bobos." The earlier part of the night had VIPs (of a more mature set, though all "gamely" clad in the animal print attire request) and media friends partaking of the dinner treats that Philip's mom, **Linda**, partner **Barbie Puzon** and resto manager **Dennis Riego** painstakingly planned. Hip and hot interior design wiz **Miguel Rosales** and event planner **Winnie Chua Go** spruced the hut with paper bags, lanterns and candles, giving it that Phuket meets Flintstones feel.

Upon entry, guests were greeted with snake handlers, tribal dancers and musicians. The posse of **Loren Legarda, Manny** and **Cynthia Villar** and **Frank** and **Mila Drilon**, along with the owners showered the place with petals and gold coins. Upstairs, drag performers dominated the bar as video footage of National Geographic was shown. The scene reminded me of Zu disco during its heydey.

Later that night, a DJ showdown ensued. **Manolet Dario, David Jacob** and **Benjo Marquez** took turns on the turntable, as a veritable jungle dance transpired. Other guests, mostly clad in animal print, opted to chill at the downstairs area or at the VIP lounge on the second floor.

Chit chalking

In between jungle beats, I was able to hop onto a Kalayaan Avenue warehouse, where teen mag Chalk was having its sizzling first anniversary celebration. Chalkaholic editor in chief **Romina Urra** was busy hip-hopping between guests, an elite set of correspondents from different colleges all over the country.

It rained a bit, but that didn't stop Chalk-o-philes from raiding this "One Night Stand," which had giant set-up neon graffiti signs sprayed all over the walls. I feasted on the waffle stand as Nestea girls with big tanks on their backs endlessly filled up my cup. So much for caffeine addiction—maybe that's why everybody was so energetic that night.

Resident stylist **Jenni Epperson** picked people from the audience and instantly transformed them into ramp models—makeover magical madness! Buffalo provided the clothes, giveaways were aplenty, along with Chalk's latest issue and other ABS-CBN publications on sale outside the venue.

To Chalk, here's to more "One Night Stands" and semesters of putting the edge back into college!

Moving forward

That same week, Mega Publishing's male arm, FWD, also celebrated its first year. The Libis party strip was rife with traffic, as people rushed to the FWD party stop, the Ford center. Dashing editor in chief **TJ Manotoc** was beaming as he welcomed well-wishers into the car showroom. Charming associate editor **Yan Yrastorza Yuzon** and hardworking fashion editor **Pierra Calasanz** were on hand to entertain the close to a thousand guests who filled up the scintillating showroom.

Giant covers of FWD covers lined the entrance as countless food booths filled the venue. Bands jammed as models, scenesters and FWD fanatics romped the night away. The environment reminded me of a school fair. There were overflowing food, freebies and fast-forward fun.

"Clean guys' magazine" seems to be FWD's unspoken mantra. A wholesome "fantasy date" with "it" gal **Pia Guanio** was also a highlight, hosted by TJ and **Bianca Araneta**. Later, Mega big bosses **Liza Ilarde** and **Sari Yap** joined the partyphiles, male and more, in one big happening shebang.

Then, TJ unveiled their latest coup—a cover with Sugar Ray, an FWD exclusive. "We're the only magazine in Asia that they have agreed to do a cover for. We've definitely gone a long way from our **Borgy (Manotoc)** cover," said TJ to his half-brother. Sister **Mavis** was also on hand to extend sibling support. Wolfgang, Barbie's Cradle, the Cal Carrie's models and others gave props to the forward-thinking men's magazine.

Cheers to our favorite F word.

September sizzlers

What's in store this September? This Thursday, **Anton San Diego** launches his new baby, the Philippine Tatler, with four First Daughters on the cover cheerily cheesing it out over a bottle of champagne. The society sizzler happens at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin.

The biggest buzz for this month, and probably for the rest of the season, is the much, much awaited gala of hot, hot designer **Rajo Laurel**. To say that this event will be the most happening fashion gala of the year would be an understatement. With a book, a CD from Europe and endless parties planned this early, this will indeed be the year's most talked-about fashionista gathering.

On the other end of the scale, San Miguel will launch Oktoberfest at the end of September, the start of the beer-drinking season. Celebrations will last the whole month of October, so be ready for that. This time, aside from the usual beer and band salvo, San Miguel brings in the chow into this well-loved now-Pinoy festival.

Also, come next Tuesday, Bench Fix Hair Gel hosts the "passionate pink"-themed premiere of "La Vida Rosa" with image model **Diether Ocampo** and **Rosanna Roces** topbilling this "Bonnie and Clyde"-type of movie.

Pinoyorkers

Speaking of Tuesdays, the events that have unfolded that terrible Tuesday morning in New York City have left many in grief all over the world.

The first word that came to my mind as I saw the jets crash into the World Trade Center was "surreal." Minutes after shifting the channel from "Sex & the City" to CNN, Bloomberg and BBC, I panicked upon realizing I had many friends based in New York.

I kept on calling dear friend **Celine Lopez**, who is taking up fashion studies at Parson's, **Quark Henares** who is taking up film at the New York Film Academy, and **Marie Santos**, former Cosmo mag lifestyle editor. Other beloved Pinoyorkers **Ronnie Alejandro, Giselle Toengi, Lea Salonga** and others were all being thought about while the whole world watched the twin towers collapse.

Cary Lagdameo, a banker whose office is on the 92nd floor of the World Trade Center, was luckily assigned to Manila this month. The day after the incident, he went to church to give thanks for the new reprieve on his life.

We all know that they are safe and sound, but the sorrow that the terrorist acts had caused will forever mark our being. We mourn for our brothers and sisters who have sacrificed their lives.

But, as America's very own leader would say to his embattled nation, "it is time to move on."

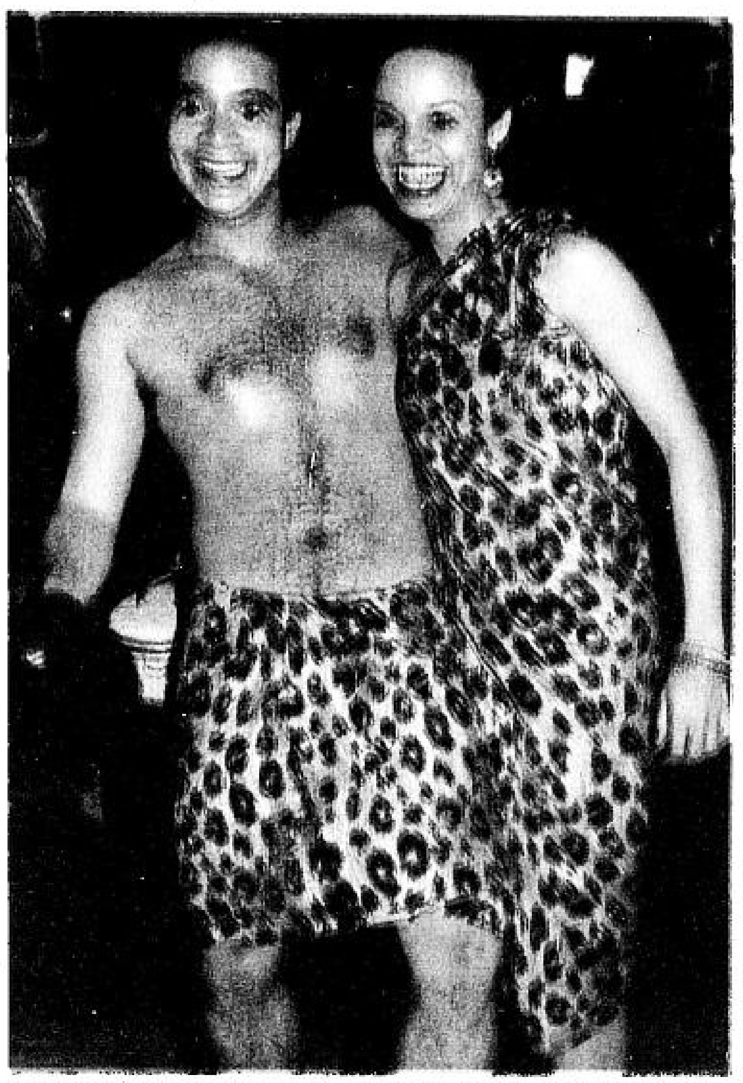
HUTU'S HUT's Philip Pastoral and Barbie Puzon

FRESH. Nicole Hernandez and Paolo Villavicencio

CHALKAHOLICS Anna Palabyab and Stephanie Zubiri

CHALK charm Monchu Gonzales and Romina Urra

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP


PEBBLES AND BAMBAM. Paolo Carvajal and Mae Young do the jungle dance at Hutu's Hut.

ALL IN THE FAMILY. TJ Manotoc, Mavis and Jim Fuentebella, Borgy Manotoc and Sarah Meier

FWD FAMILY. Yam Yrastorza Yuzon, TJ Manotoc and Pierra Calasanz

METRO STAR. Raymart Santiago, Rico Gutierrez and Fiona Lucas

FAST forward, Afzelius brothers

HOT, hot Chris Mathay and Cheska Garcia

STYLE file Dianne Sison and chef Joy Go

Bazzura's third year blast!

TANNED bodies gyrating to the DJ's pumping beats, muscles gliding on the sand as a random revelry of people, a mixture of locals and world travelers all clad in white, toasted a bohemian institution's birthday blast. This was the scene at the third year anniversary of Bazzura Bar in Boracay.

Others may dismiss this bar as "trash," but that's exactly where its charm lies—that you can be whoever and whatever and have a great time at Bazzura. There you find "trannies" mingling with expats, locals hobnobbing with cityphiles, game girls doing the grind with beasty boys—name the scene you can find it here.

"White hot night" was their Friday beach birthday theme, as yards and yards of white cloth surrounded the premier Boracay party place. Margaritas overflowed, pitchers and pitchers of booze were passed around. Despite the diversity of the crowd, there was this palpable energy that made it feel like the party was one big, happy family—the parents being British-born, now Boracay-bred Patrick Higgs and Paul Sowerby.

Alvin Barbasa and Kat Tan, former Planet Mars stalwarts, could not have found a better home. Bert Mamisao is also happily living there, managing his very own Club Ten beach resort. Well-loved partyphile Edgar Mercado has chosen to live by Boracay's shores, taking care of his Caribo restaurant, a visitor's favorite Bora haunt.

On Saturday, a full moon party was held in their honor. Though we did not get to see the full moon because it rained hard that night, the beach bums still found the time to pay homage to their favorite party place, dancing in full wet splendor—only in Boracay's Bazzura!

The fine Sunday afternoon that followed, I had breakfast at Caribo, and overheard Bazzura owner Patrick waxing philosophical to a Filipino friend, "This is where I have found peace, this is home for me."

And we thank him for making it ours, too.

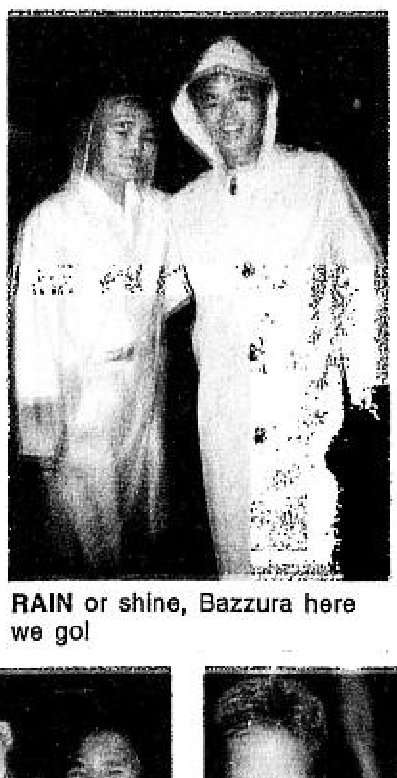
Text and photos by Tim Yap

KISS AND TELL. Alvin Barbasa and Miko Valenzuela

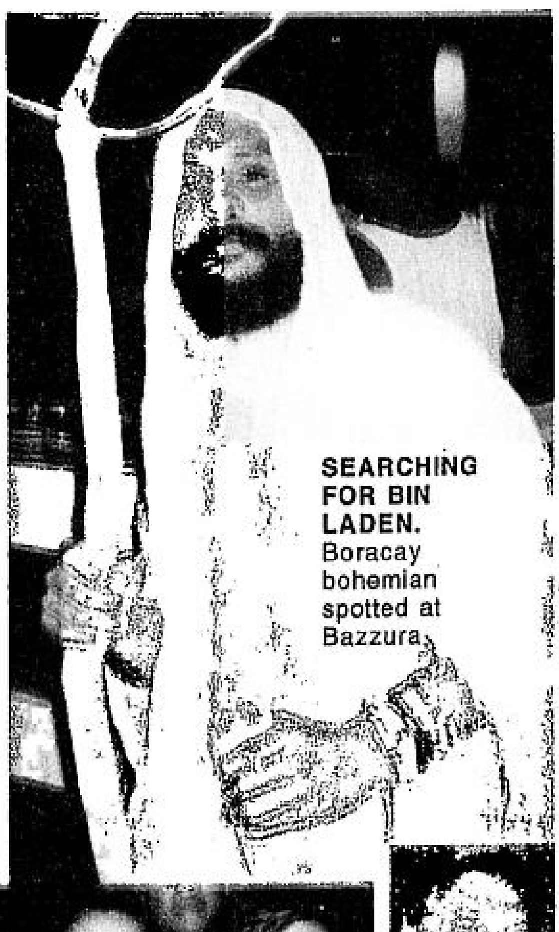
WHITE NIGHT. Eric Bellman and Steve Mills

WHEN'S Oktoberfest, buddy?

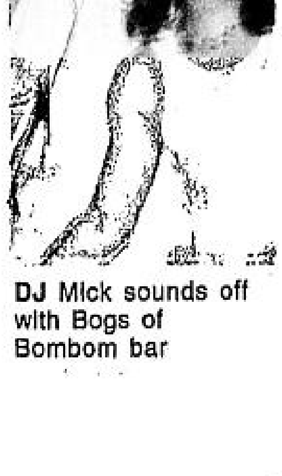
SINGING IN THE RAIN. Maegan and RJ Lista

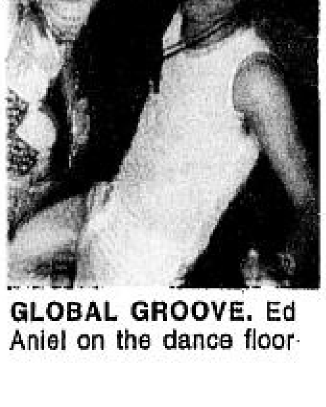

RAIN or shine, Bazzura here we go!

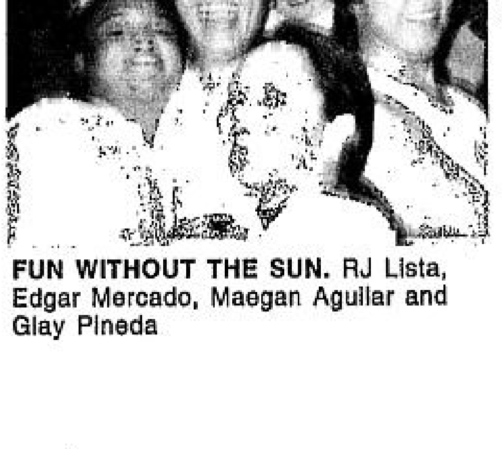
BAZZURA big boss Patrick Higgs


SEARCHING FOR BIN LADEN. Boracay bohemian spotted at Bazzura

TROPICANA. Lian Lamug and Kat Tan


DJ Mick sounds off with Bogs of Bombom bar


GLOBAL GROOVE. Ed Aniel on the dance floor


FUN WITHOUT THE SUN. RJ Lista, Edgar Mercado, Maegan Aguilar and Glay Pineda

UNTV's Dinggoy Remedios

A cheapskate's guide to shopping in Davao

BY JASON DOPLITO
2bU! Correspondent

First rule, don't shop for durian because it's heavy and not exactly heavenly smelling

ANYONE who comes from Davao by plane and proceeds to the baggage area of the airport to claim his stuff will surely be haunted by that familiar smell. Suddenly, one will see craters and craters of durian, pomelo and the occasional *rambutan* all over the place. This mix of scents actually clings to one's clothes; even the cab driver will catch a sniff of Davao once you're on the cab on the way home. It is because of this that I thought of becoming more considerate and spare everyone the hassle of smelling something that is not exactly heavenly. And so while in Davao, I opted to buy inorganic commodities as *pasalubong*. And yes, it's also a good excuse not to carry around a "crater."

My trip to Davao City coincided with the Kadayawan festival, and so everywhere, there were stalls that sold all sorts of souvenir items, mostly clothes. During my free time, I stopped at a bazaar that was only a few walks away from the hotel. At first, I was still in "Megamall" mode, meaning I was still choosy and searched for items that could pass off as branded. I walked the whole block of stalls inspecting shirts, caps, bracelets, bags and jeans. Nothing passed my Megamall standard. It occurred to me then that this was pretty much an *ukay-ukay* (bazaar or bargain-hunting) so I immediately switched to the "Pam Pastor" mode, where you buy anything and everything that catches your attention in all sizes and color. That was when I started to look at the items' price tags. Unfortunately, the things I fancied were still in Megamall prices and so I couldn't maximize my "Pam Pastor" mode since I'd shoot out of my budget. But then I realized it was pointless to go to Davao and buy a "Levi's" jeans and a "Jansport" bag when Manila had its own bazaars in Greenhills.

Tightwad

I am *kuripot*. Whenever I go malling with friends, I'd act as a conscience to anyone who'd want to buy something. I would say, "*Kailangan mo ba 'yan?*" "*Bagay ba yan sa 'yo?*" and "*Meron ka na niyan!*"

And so my whole shopping experience was basically spent arguing with my conscience. At one point, we were to use the Smart Money card in our shopping transactions at the Gaisano Mall. "No sweat," I said to myself. Since the card was pretty much like an ATM, it would be a breeze to just go anywhere, get something and pay for it using the card. But in my case, my conscience totally bothered me. "This place is like any other mall in Manila. What's the point of buying things here in Davao when you can buy them in Manila?" it said to me. And so I walked around aimlessly without any counter-argument. Then I saw batteries. I'd need them for my tape recorder. Ladies and gentlemen, I went to Davao to buy two AA batteries.

Then Sir Mon Isberto of Smart Communications mentioned about this clothes store for guys that he absolutely loved. With Nick Wilwayco, my shopping buddy, we went there to find really nice conservative shirts, sweaters and khakis. I got a black, long-sleeved shirt to try on for size. It didn't fit me well. That was the end of my Smart Money shopping experience.

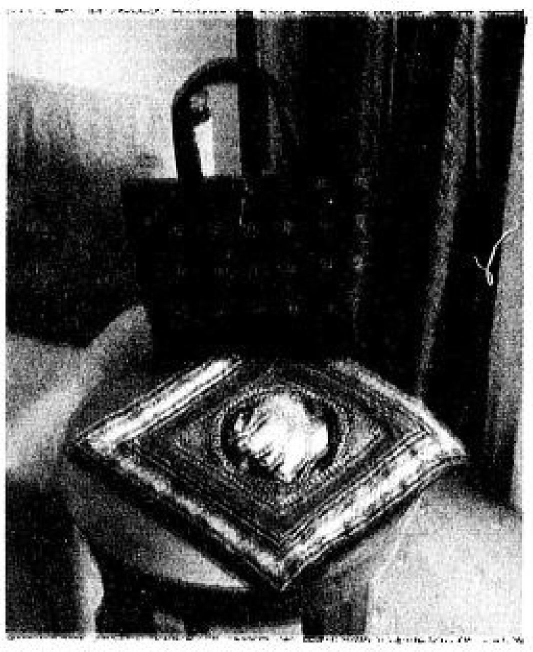
Aldevinco

The next day was really intended for *pasalubong* shopping. They had a place called the Aldevinco center that was packed with shirts, sarongs, bags, beads, etc. This time, I went with Ruth Tadeo whose sharp shopping skills had been proven in Boracay. Here, the items took on a Muslim feel, as they were usually shiny and beaded with geometric patterns like those you see in the ceiling of Mosques. Ruth guided me expertly through the numerous shops and even taught me a tip on how to make *tawad*—pretend not to hear the final price and offer a cheaper one to a forgetful and different saleslady.

The salesladies of Davao, or at least of Aldevinco center, were very courteous. If someone had ever slammed a door at you for wearing a shirt and shorts in a high-end shop, don't fret at Aldevinco. Here, they even open the door for you and invite you in, making you feel guilty for not entering their shops. For a moment, I felt like I was a prince and that I had loads of bucks to give away, but a reality check on my wallet made me feel otherwise. In this center, I was able to find elephant-print monograms on bags, beaded prints in an elephant shape, and a throw pillow with an elephant print. I almost felt that Davao was an elephant country.

At the end of the day, I was satisfied with what I had bought. Also, I was proud of the fact that I was able to stick to my budget. I was even happier for they all fitted into my bag and it would be so easy for me to travel back to Manila. Or so I thought. While waiting for my luggage at the baggage carousel, Ruth told me she had reserved a crate of pomelos for me. Waaah!

HANDICRAFTS at the bazaar



ELEPHANT MANIA. Elephant-printed bag and throw pillow

TIRED of shopping? Try the mouthwatering seafood of Davao.

"***BAGAY** ba*?" Nick Wilcayco goes for a sarong.

At the Children's Wear Department ...
COOKIE MONSTER
PAJAMA PARTY
Funtime at sleepyland with PJ sets with character prints
GOODNIGHT
SM
We've got it all for you!
DEPARTMENT STORE
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • PAMPANGA • MANILA • ILOILO • CEBU

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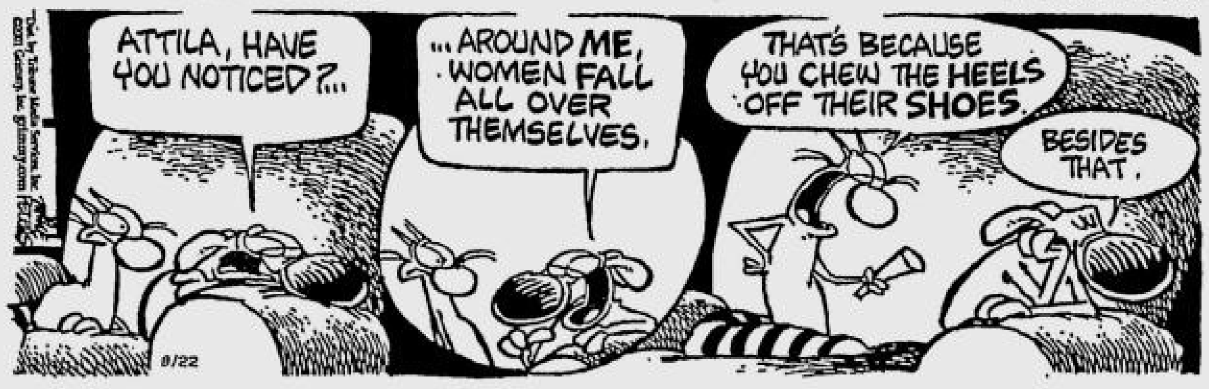
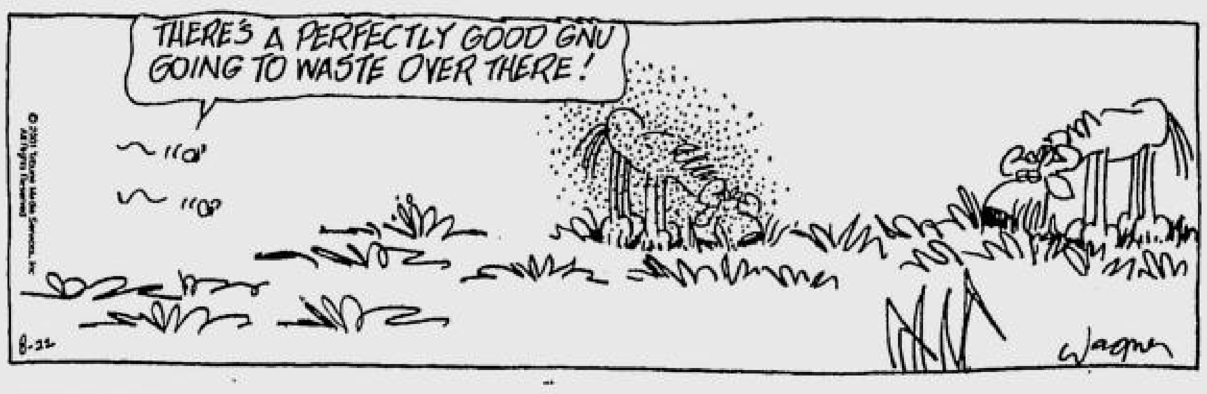
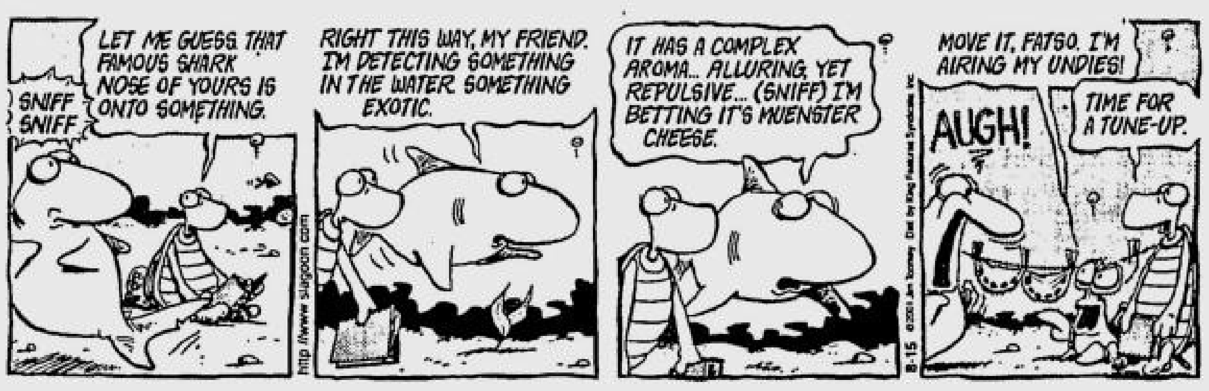
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


ATTILA, HAVE YOU NOTICED?...
...AROUND ME, WOMEN FALL ALL OVER THEMSELVES.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU CHEW THE HEELS OFF THEIR SHOES.
BESIDES THAT.
8/22

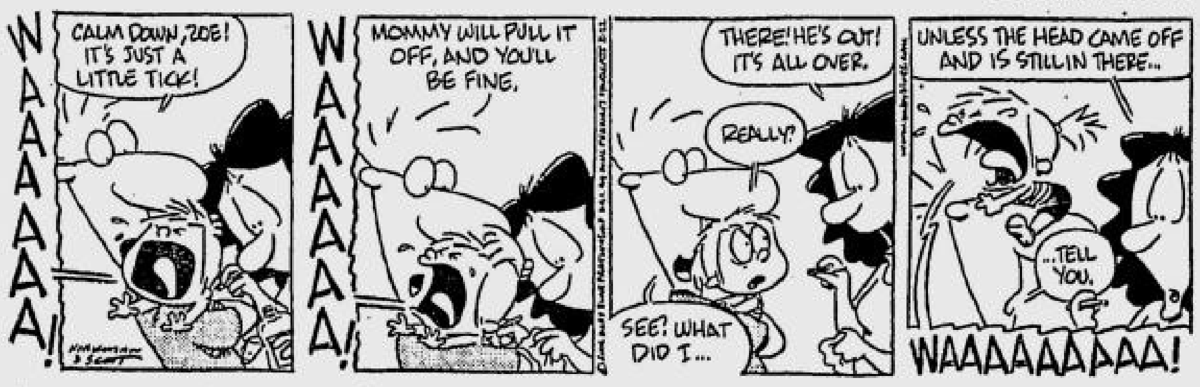
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


THERE'S A PERFECTLY GOOD GNU GOING TO WASTE OVER THERE!
8-22
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


SNIFF SNIFF
LET ME GUESS THAT FAMOUS SHARK NOSE OF YOURS IS ONTO SOMETHING.
RIGHT THIS WAY, MY FRIEND. I'M DETECTING SOMETHING IN THE WATER. SOMETHING EXOTIC.
IT HAS A COMPLEX AROMA... ALLURING, YET REPULSIVE... (SNIFF) I'M BETTING IT'S MUENSTER CHEESE.
MOVE IT, FATSO. I'M AIRING MY UNDIES!
AUGH!
TIME FOR A TUNE-UP.
http://www.slagoon.com
8-15

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WAAAAAA!
CALM DOWN, ZOE! IT'S JUST A LITTLE TICK!
WAAAAAA!
MOMMY WILL PULL IT OFF, AND YOU'LL BE FINE.
THERE! HE'S OUT! IT'S ALL OVER.
REALLY?
SEE? WHAT DID I...
UNLESS THE HEAD CAME OFF AND IS STILL IN THERE...
...TELL YOU.
WAAAAAAAAAA!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Trisha Yearwood, Jeremy Irons, Rosemary Harris, Paul Williams, Kevin Zegers
Happy Birthday: You will do whatever is necessary to finish projects this year. You are a good team player and a willing candidate for a lead position. Your competitors don't have your ability to find solutions and move in a positive direction. Your numbers: 17, 23, 31, 34, 42, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take it easy; the less aggravation the better. It's time to come up with some good ideas. It's a good idea to work alone and not share your thoughts just yet.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Female colleagues will help you complete the job. However, you should find out what they want in return. Be up-front if you don't want to be surprised or embarrassed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be charming, clever and direct today. This is a good time to clear the air and let others know your beliefs and intentions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Focus on perfecting your home, not on yourself today. You will find it relaxing to curl up and watch television or read a book in the evening.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You are in need of some entertainment, so don't sit around waiting for the phone to ring. Make a few phone calls to close friends and organize the event.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Expand your horizons. Talk to your boss about a raise or advancement. Let him or her know your plans and how you fit into the company. If working for someone else is tiring, invest in and start your own business.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will be in the mood for love. However, if you don't have a partner or your current partner is not receptive, don't despair. You will enjoy shopping for something to enhance your looks.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't divulge your ideas to others until you're certain they are fail-proof. You are onto something good and don't want to take the chance of having someone own it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Call a good friend for an eye-opening discussion of your present situation. If you get out and network, you will meet someone who will be beneficial to you in the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will not make wise decisions concerning your position at work. Self-deception about your worth is likely to lead down the wrong path. Don't push your luck with a boss.

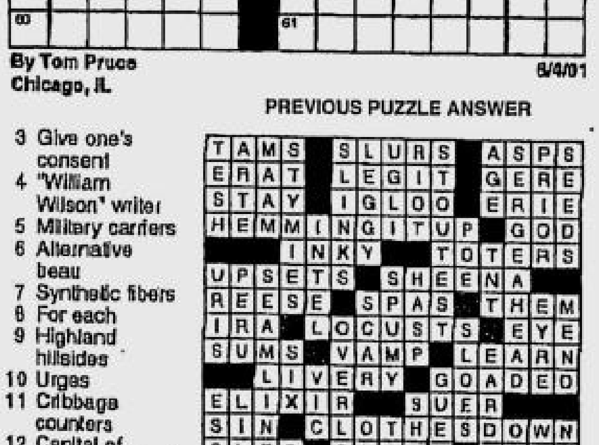
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will shine at social functions today. Attend interesting events or activities to meet new acquaintances. Sudden changes in your personal life do look promising.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You should be taking better care of yourself. Look honestly at your diet and make a concerted effort to improve what you consume. It's time to become serious about prolonging longevity.

Birthday Baby: You are cute, cuddly, entertaining and will always attract attention. You are quick to see all sides of any issue, but slow to make up your mind. You are creative, inventive and innovative.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
6/4/01

ACROSS
1 Empty language
9 Way around
15 Confection flavoring
16 Find secondary corrections
17 Brief look-see
18 Cartwright or Lansbury
19 Driving area
20 Feedbag tidbit
21 Some on the Somme
22 Circle of flowers
23 Newman film
24 Jets and gliders
25 "Death in Venice" author
27 Dueling swords
29 Drag behind
30 Clear a frosted windshield
31 Nearly perpendicular
33 Produce a graphic image
34 Some apples
37 Bonds metals
38 Still green
39 __ Hawkins Day
40 Pigs' pads
41 Diamond score
42 Cutting edge
46 Lean-to
47 Package
49 Courteney of "Friends"
50 You betcha!
51 Something to surf
52 Because of
53 Muscle spasm
54 Author of "O Pioneers!"
56 Chicago mobster
58 Feeling ill
59 Auditorium capacities
60 Secret meetings
61 Pallor

DOWN
1 Dress
2 Batting order
3 Give one's consent
4 "William Wilson" writer
5 Military carriers
6 Alternative beau
7 Synthetic fibers
8 For each
9 Highland hillsides
10 Urges
11 Cribbage counters
12 Capital of South Australia
13 Sound suppresser
14 Tarnishers
21 Morning moisture
25 Neither fish __ fowl
26 Founder of genetics
28 Saw
30 Intentional
32 Compass pt.
33 Angler's equipment
34 Mild-mannered person
35 Prevalent
36 Sacerdotal
37 Chigoe
39 Bask
41 Polish
43 Play opening
44 Social events
45 Surplus
47 Ice masses
48 Homegrown
51 Took off
55 "A Boy and __ Dog"
56 Small snake
57 Fastening device

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

T	A	M	S		S	L	U	R	S		A	S	P	S
E	R	A	T		L	E	G	I	T		G	E	R	E
S	T	A	Y		I	G	L	O	O		E	R	I	E
H	E	M	M	I	N	G	I	T	U	P		G	O	D
			I	N	K	Y			T	O	T	E	R	S
U	P	S	E	T	S		S	H	E	E	N	A		
R	E	E	S	E		S	P	A	S		T	H	E	M
I	R	A		L	O	C	U	S	T	S		E	Y	E
S	U	M	S		V	A	M	P		L	E	A	R	N
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S	L	E	D		O	L	I	O	S		R	H	E	A
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N	E	S	S		D	A	R	E	S		P	O	T	S

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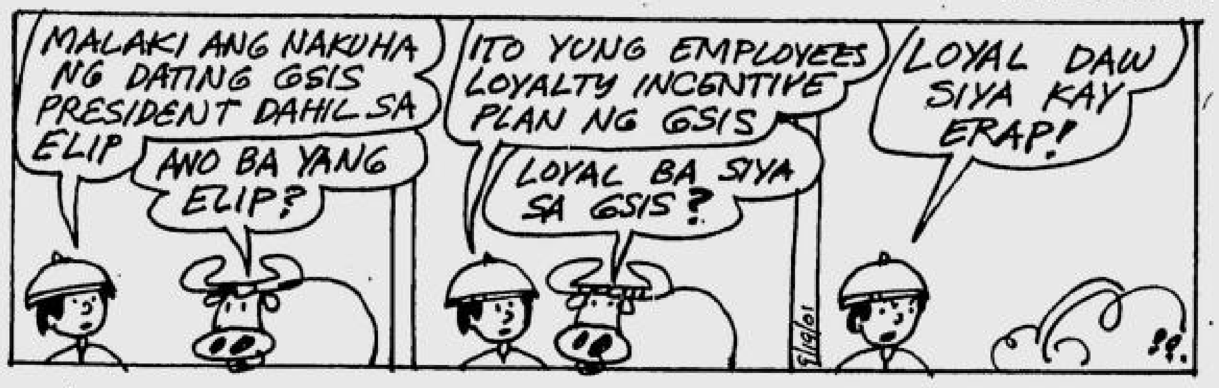
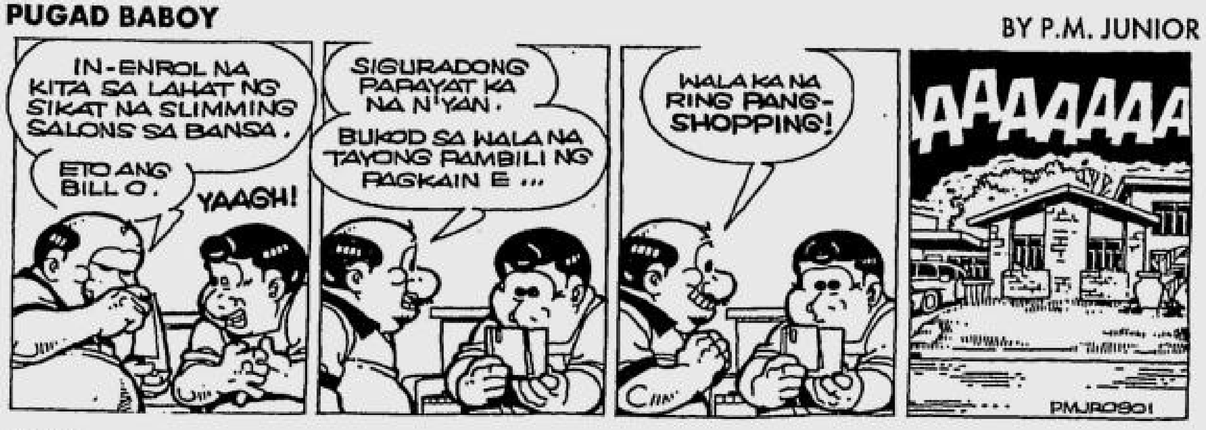
6/4/01

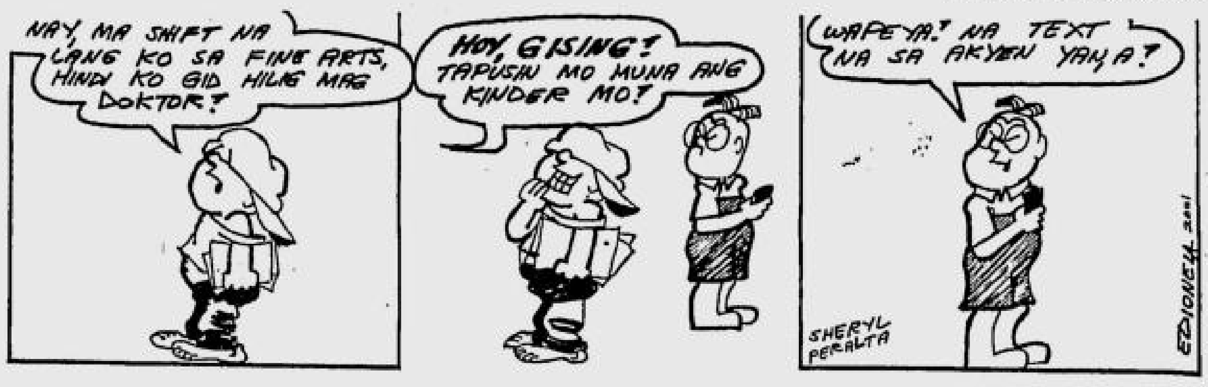
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


MALAKI ANG NAKUHA NG DATING GSIS PRESIDENT DAHIL SA ELIP
ANO BA YANG ELIP?
ITO YUNG EMPLOYEES LOYALTY INCENTIVE PLAN NG GSIS
LOYAL BA SIYA SA GSIS?
LOYAL DAW SIYA KAY ERAP!
9/19/01

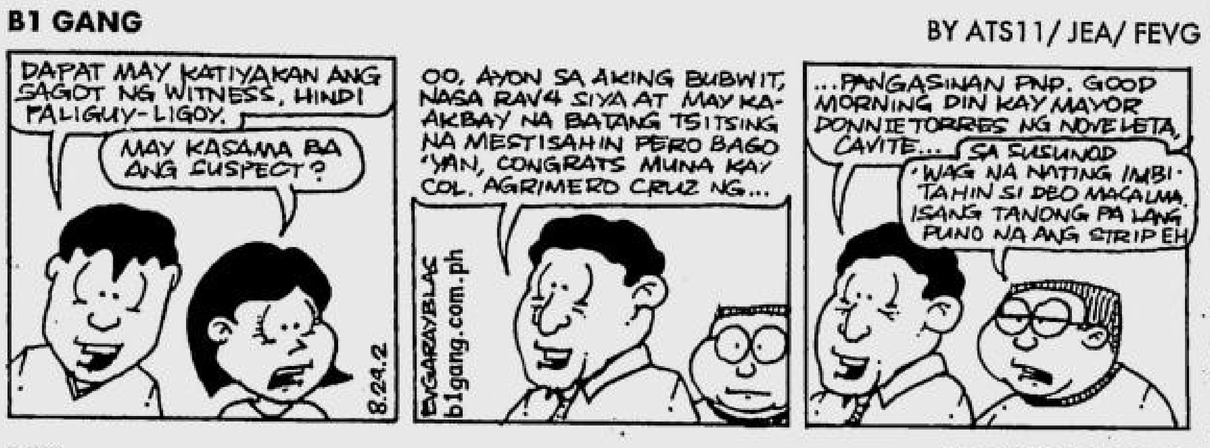
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


IN-ENROL NA KITA SA LAHAT NG SIKAT NA SLIMMING SALONS SA BANSA.
ETO ANG BILL O.
YAAGH!
SIGURADONG PAPAYAT KA NA N'YAN.
BUKOD SA WALA NA TAYONG PAMBILI NG PAGKAIN E...
WALA KA NA RING PANG-SHOPPING!
AAAAAAA
PMJR0901

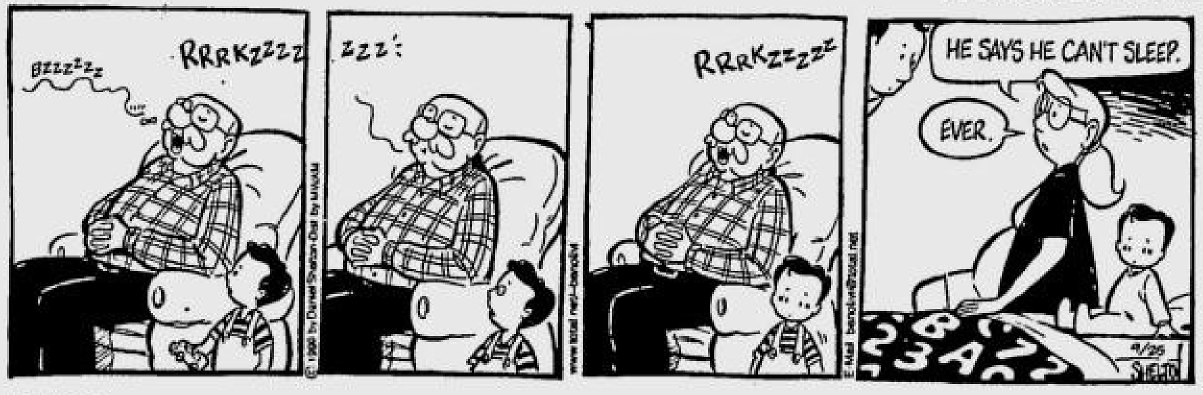
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY, MA SHIFT NA LANG KO SA FINE ARTS, HINDI KO GID HILIG MAG DOKTOR?
HOY, GISING! TAPUSIN MO MUNA ANG KINDER MO!
WAPEYA? NA TEXT NA SA AKYEN YAN, A?
SHERYL PERALTA
EDIONELA 2001

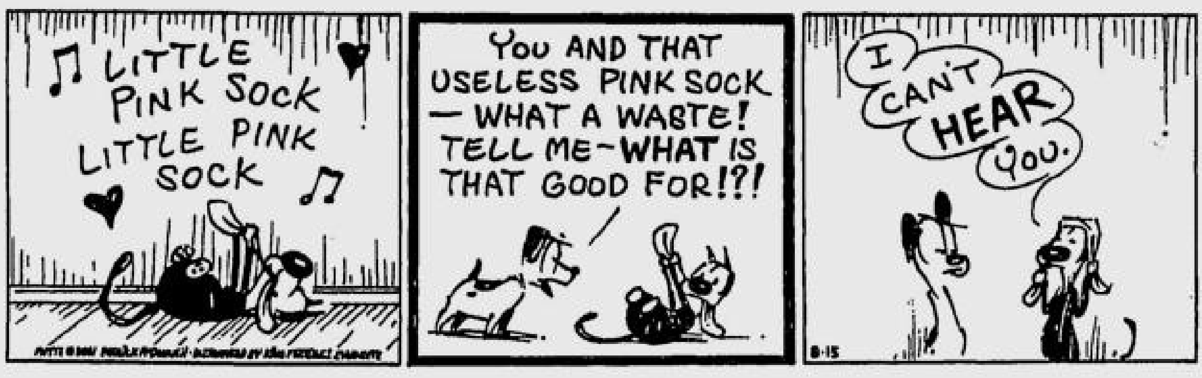
B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


DAPAT MAY KATIYAKAN ANG SAGOT NG WITNESS, HINDI PALIGUY-LIGOY.
MAY KASAMA BA ANG SUSPECT?
8.24.2
OO, AYON SA AKING BUBWIT, NASA RAV4 SIYA AT MAY KAAKBAY NA BATANG TSITSING NA MESTISAHIN PERO BAGO 'YAN, CONGRATS MUNA KAY COL. AGRIMERO CRUZ NG...
EVGARAYBLAC b1gang.com.ph
...PANGASINAN PNP. GOOD MORNING DIN KAY MAYOR DONNIE TORRES NG NOVELETA, CAVITE...
SA SUSUNOD 'WAG NA NATING IMBITAHIN SI DBO MACALMA. ISANG TANONG PA LANG PUNO NA ANG STRIP EH

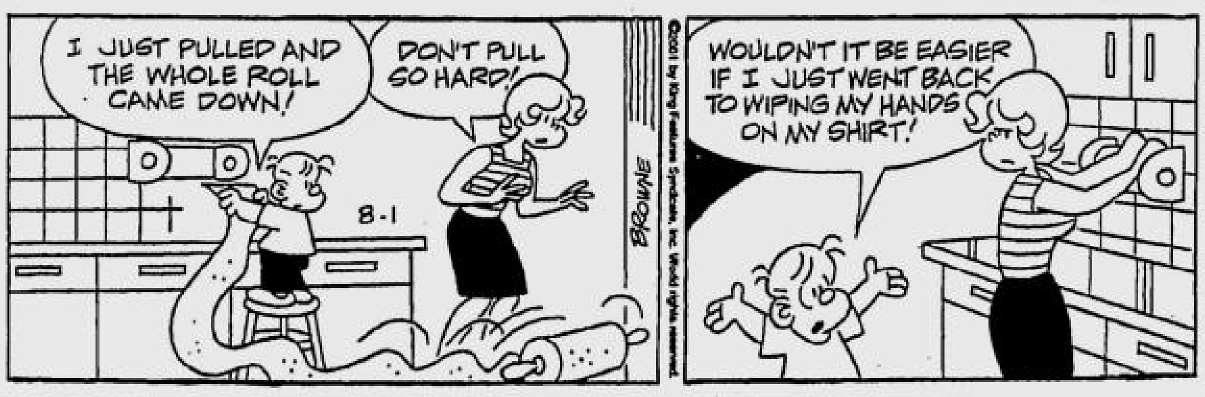
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


BZZZZZZ
RRRKZZZZ
ZZZ
RRRKZZZZZ
HE SAYS HE CAN'T SLEEP.
EVER.
9/25
SHELTON

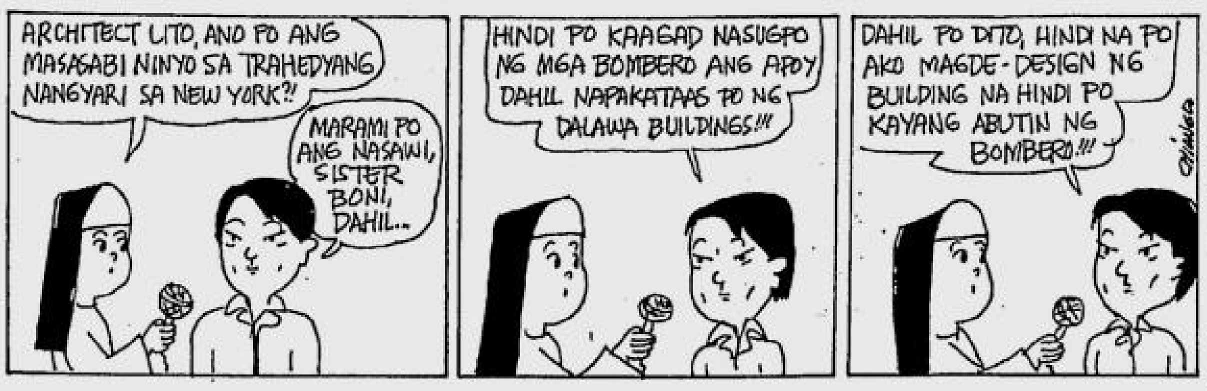
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


LITTLE PINK SOCK LITTLE PINK SOCK
YOU AND THAT USELESS PINK SOCK — WHAT A WASTE! TELL ME—WHAT IS THAT GOOD FOR!?!
I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
8-15

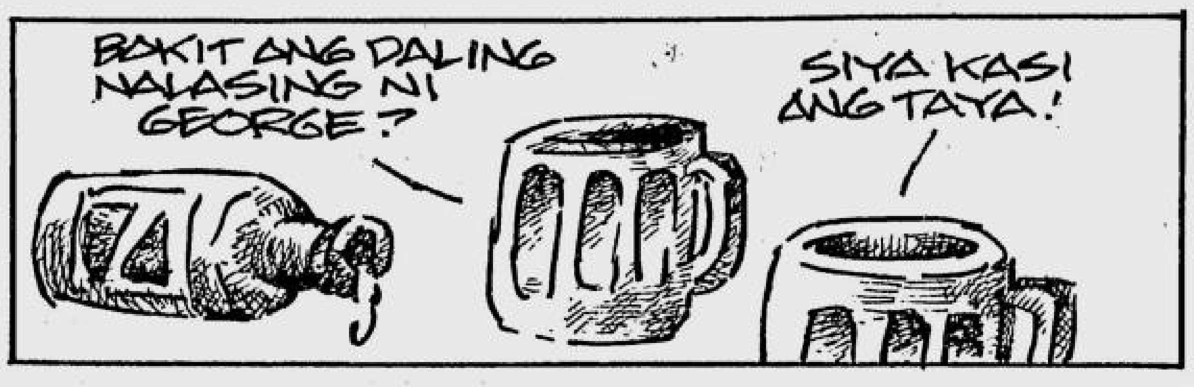
HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I JUST PULLED AND THE WHOLE ROLL CAME DOWN!
DON'T PULL SO HARD!
8-1
BROWNE
WOULDN'T IT BE EASIER IF I JUST WENT BACK TO WIPING MY HANDS ON MY SHIRT!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ARCHITECT LITO, ANO PO ANG MASASABI NINYO SA TRAHEDYANG NANGYARI SA NEW YORK?!
MARAMI PO ANG NASAWI, SISTER BONI, DAHIL..
HINDI PO KAAGAD NASUGPO NG MGA BOMBERO ANG APOY DAHIL NAPAKATAAS PO NG DALAWA BUILDINGS!!!
DAHIL PO DITO, HINDI NA PO AKO MAGDE-DESIGN NG BUILDING NA HINDI PO KAYANG ABUTIN NG BOMBERO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT ANG DALING NALASING NI GEORGE?
SIYA KASI ANG TAYA!

A VISIT TO Paradise

By Walter Ang

THE AUTHOR and his scaly friend

WE conquered the city of Puerto Princesa via an Air Philippines flight from Manila. To prepare for the adventure ahead, we spent the night at the tony Spanish villa-inspired Asturias Hotel. We all had a nightcap at the lobby's Scenario Bar before turning in for the night.

After devouring a hearty breakfast, we dropped by the Butterfly Farm where a hilarious video of a butterfly's life cycle was shown. We felt like a bunch of kindergarten kids as a voice-over told us not to do this and not to touch that and all sorts of precautions.

I grew up in fume-filled Metro Manila, so butterflies were, and still are, a rarity. It was interesting to see all these colorful flying insects hovering around us. There were plates of *gumamelas* and sliced bananas to attract the little creatures. But these were unnecessary for they were all over the garden. You just had to look harder for the ones camouflaged as leaves.

The highlight of the morning was when our guide showed us two butterflies that were in *flagrante delicto*. The garden boasts of its Yellow Breadwings, the second largest butterfly in the country, but it also has a few other creatures that call it home. If you loved the movie "A Bug's Life," then this place will give you a chance to see those computer-generated bugs for real. They've got big, juicy millipedes, a walking stick and some fantastic Malay scorpions, among other creepy crawlies.

Crocodilus Park

Moving on, we ventured to the Palawan Wildlife Refuge and Rescue Center, more popularly known as The Crocodile Farm. The skeleton of the largest crocodile ever captured in the country greeted us as we entered the center. All 17 ft and 6 inches of its hide was stretched across the wall like an ominous sign.

When we got to the holding area for the adult crocs, it felt like we were in Jurassic Park. There were metal walkways, too. So many crocs were just lying there and not moving at all. Our guides Glenn Rebong and Rene Baylon explained that these reptiles stay very still because of their opportunistic nature. They're all waiting for the first piece of food to come along. That's when the action gets going.

Of course, our guides were quick to dispel the myth that crocs are manhunters. They only attack when they're hungry or protecting their young. They can't even tell the difference between humans and the rest of the animals they usually munch on!

We also had a peek at the infirmary where injured crocs and those born with congenital defects (like missing tails) were kept. 2bU!'s favorite was a croc who had a calcium deficiency and, as a result, had no teeth. Although it is still fed regularly, it looked so forlorn. And who wouldn't be melancholic if the rest of your kind can go through 3,000 teeth in a lifetime and you had none!

Baby, baby!

At the nursery, baby crocs were placed in tubs all lined up in the warehouse. We got a chance to hold one, but for our safety, its snout was held together with rubber bands. The tiny little thing wriggled as I held it by its neck and tail and it gave out the cutest little croak when we took pictures.

The croc's underside was smooth and it reminded me of Zoology class with all those frogs we had to poke, prod and dissect. Baby crocs are a lot less slimy and messy than frogs, I assure you. But, just like frogs, they do move a lot. Unlike the adults, these were hyper little devils and would snap and scatter every so often.

Their sudden movements elicited screams from correspondents who jumped with fright. The Center is currently being funded by the environment department, but proposals have been made to allow Palawan to solely run the center to attract more tourists.

I wish we had enough time to explore the underground river, a Unesco World Heritage Site. It would also have been fun to visit the Vietnamese refugee camp and taste their cuisine, which a friend has been bragging about. But it gives me an excuse to visit Puerto Princesa again.

I AM your future? Huh?

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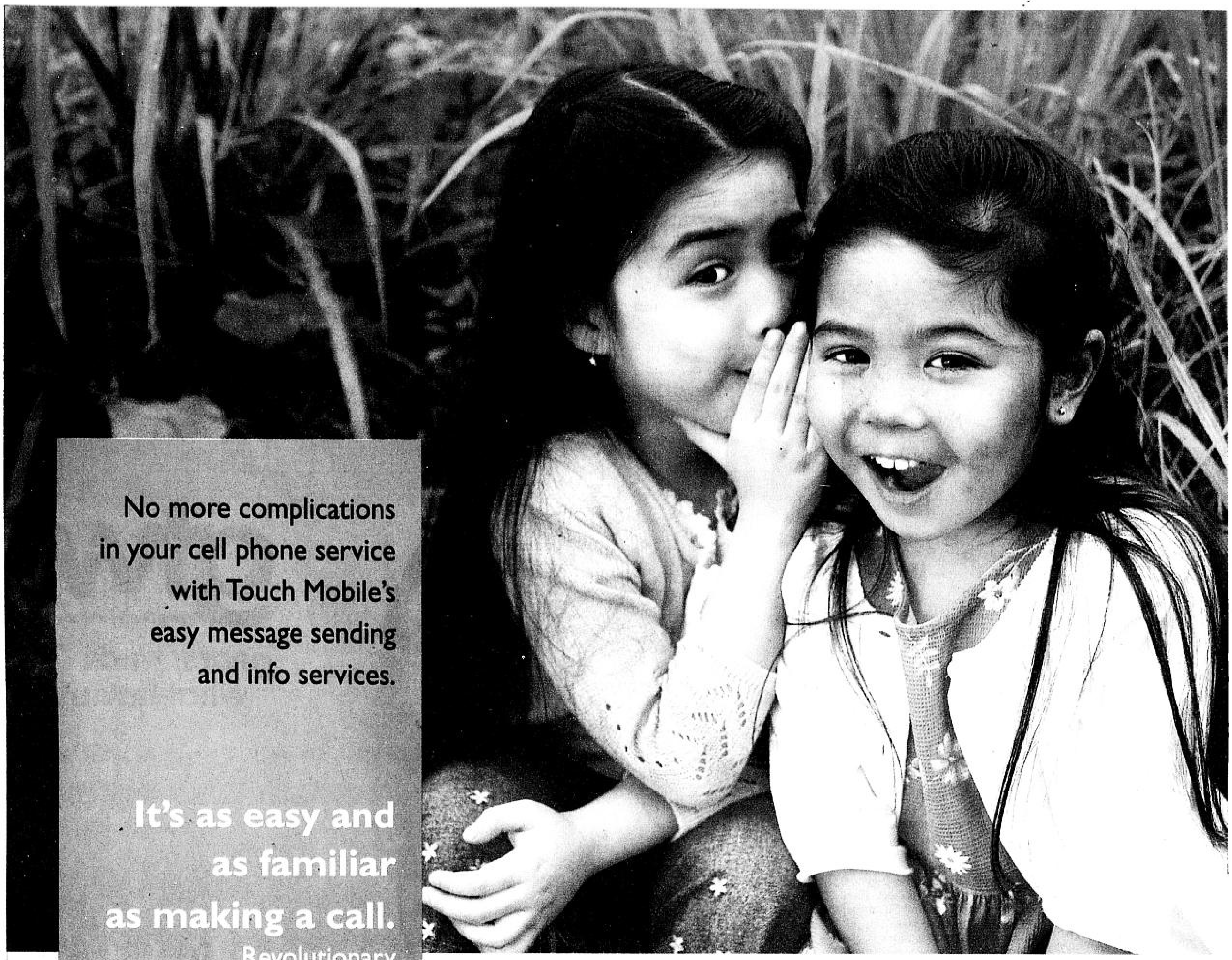

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